



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 16 July 2025 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:48 P.M., 16 July 2025). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

Questions marked thus **[R]** indicate that a relevant interest has been declared.

Questions with identification numbers of **900000 or greater** indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

■ Crown Prosecution Service: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes: [\[65703\]](#)

To ask the Solicitor General, how much the Crown Prosecution Service has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Lucy Rigby:
The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) spent the below amounts on equipment such as chairs, monitors and desks to enable to staff to work from home effectively in the last three years:

FINANCIAL YEAR	CPS HOMEWORKER SPEND
2024-25	£295,822
2023-24	£336,206
2022-23	£448,551

■ Government Legal Department: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes: [\[65704\]](#)

To ask the Solicitor General, how much the Government Legal Department has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Lucy Rigby:
In line with the Government Legal Department’s (GLD) hybrid working policy, the Department has spent the following amounts for each financial year on providing staff with the relevant equipment and furniture to enable them to work effectively at home:

FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT
2022-23	£33,537.96
2023-24	£63,729.61
2024-25	£62,864.02

■ Serious Fraud Office: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes:

[\[65705\]](#)

To ask the Solicitor General, how much the Serious Fraud Office has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Lucy Rigby:

All Serious Fraud Office (SFO) staff are routinely provided with laptops that enable them to work flexibly in the office, at home or other locations.

In financial year 2024-25, the SFO spent £1311.77 on equipment to enable a small number of staff needing workplace adjustments to work from home. No data is recorded specifically on workplace adjustment expenditure for home-working in the previous two years.

BUSINESS AND TRADE

■ British Business Bank: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes:

[\[65710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how much the British Business Bank has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Justin Madders:

The British Business Bank has spent the following on equipment for safe and productive home working:

(i) 2022-23 = N/A

(ii) 2023-24 = £9,697

(iii) 2024-25 = £7,857

This includes home working equipment such as desks, chairs, monitors, keyboards and mice. This does not include laptops or mobile phones.

■ Company Voluntary Arrangements

Mr Richard Holden:

[\[66290\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps she is taking to prevent solvent companies from using Company Voluntary Arrangements to avoid meeting their (a) redundancy and (b) notice period obligations.

Justin Madders:

Company Voluntary Arrangements ("CVAs") are a restructuring process for insolvent or contingently insolvent companies. To be eligible, a company must meet the insolvent test as assessed by an insolvency practitioner and the CVA must be agreed by a majority of creditors and shareholders.

Where redundancies are necessary as part of a CVA, the Government ensures employees have appropriate safeguards through employment rights' legislation. Redundancy payments (within statutory limits) are guaranteed from the National Insurance Fund. The Redundancy Payments Service makes these payments directly to the employees and will seek to reclaim the money back from the company as a creditor.

■ **Competition and Markets Authority: Remote Working**

Sir John Hayes:

[\[65701\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how much the Competition and Markets Authority has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Justin Madders:

The Competition and Markets Authority has spent the following on equipment for safe and productive home working:

(i) 2022-23 = £44,658.20

(ii) 2023-24 = £42,469.83

(iii) 2024-25 = £40,739.89

This includes home working equipment such as desks, chairs, monitors, keyboards and mice. This does not include laptops or mobile phones.

■ **Conditions of Employment: Women**

Ellie Chowns:

[\[66413\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps the the Fair Work Agency is taking with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure the effective enforcement of young women's rights at work.

Justin Madders:

The Fair Work Agency will deliver a much-needed upgrade to the enforcement of workers' rights. It will ensure better enforcement of rights at work for all workers, including young women.

The Agency will work closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, including to share information relevant to the Commission's role. We have provided for that by including the Commission in the list of bodies that the Fair Work Agency can share information with, at Schedule 9 of the Bill.

■ **Department for Business and Trade: Apprentices**

Stuart Anderson:

[\[66258\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps he is taking to increase apprenticeship opportunities within his Department.

Justin Madders:

In DBT, apprenticeships remain a core element of the learning and development offer for all employees. We are taking active steps to continue to increase apprenticeship opportunities within the Department, with commitment to our recently launched DBT Apprenticeship Plan for 2025-2026. This includes offering all new Executive Officer (EO) vacancies as apprenticeships, encouraging those at the start of their careers to consider an apprenticeship route as default.

DBT are also committed to support the new 'Civil Service Career Launch Apprenticeship' (CLA) Programme which seeks to support individuals kickstarting their careers whilst undertaking the Level 3 Business Administration Apprenticeship, with placements launching across government and within DBT in January 2026.

DBT also supports the Government's commitment to improving digital skills through the TechTrack scheme which is committed to supporting 2,000 digital apprenticeships by 2030.

■ Electric Bicycles: China**Euan Stainbank:**[\[65628\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether his Department has made an assessment of changes in the market share of e-bikes imported from China out of all e-bikes sold in the UK since 6 February 2025.

Gareth Thomas:

UK bicycle manufacturers play a key role in supporting our green growth ambitions. The Government's Industrial and Trade Strategies are designed to support innovation, sustainability, and skills development, to help businesses grow, create new jobs, and compete internationally.

The independent Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) assessed the market share of e-bikes imported from China as part of its recent anti-dumping review. Following the TRA's recommendation, anti-dumping measures on Chinese folding e-bikes were extended on 6 February 2025. The TRA will continue to assess the effectiveness of these measures, including any changes in market share.

■ Government Departments: Small Businesses**Dame Chi Onwurah:**[\[66907\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps he is taking to ensure that SMEs are not required to submit the same data to different government (a) departments and (b) agencies.

Justin Madders:

We want to free up business owners to focus on running their businesses and our SME Strategy will set out steps to reduce duplication and streamline data-sharing across Government.

This includes simplifying and digitising forms and exploring how services like GOV.UK One Login could offer businesses a more joined-up experience. The Prime Minister has committed to cutting the administrative cost of regulation by 25% by the end of this Parliament. By removing duplication and making services more responsive, we will help SMEs save time and money, enabling them to innovate, grow and drive economic prosperity.

■ Horizon IT System: Convictions

John Cooper: [\[66087\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what estimate his Department has made of the number of postmasters convicted as a result of failures in the Capture software; and how many of those convictions have been quashed.

John Cooper: [\[66088\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what progress he has made on providing (a) redress and (b) justice for people affected by Capture software.

John Cooper: [\[66089\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what plans his Department has to review the convictions of postmasters affected by Capture errors in instances where those convictions have not already been quashed.

Gareth Thomas:

There is no definitive number or record of the number of convictions related to Capture. The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has received 31 pre-Horizon applications to date. Incomplete due to the passage of time complicates confirming they are Capture-related. To support the CCRC, we commissioned the Post Office to review its branch files for the period from 1992 to 2000 for potential prosecutions. 448 potential cases have been reviewed with 31 confirmed Capture-related cases. The findings have been sent to the CCRC. If convictions related to Capture are overturned by the courts, we will provide appropriate redress.

For non-convicted postmasters, the Government announced the Capture scheme design on 19 June. We expect to launch in Autumn, starting with an initial 150 claimants before broader rollout.

■ Import Duties: USA

Dame Harriett Baldwin: [\[66161\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what tariffs applied to steel exports to the United States of America on 9 July 2025.

Mr Douglas Alexander:

Thanks to our trade deal with the US, the UK remains the only country to have avoided 50% tariffs on steel and aluminium. A 25% tariff continues to apply to UK steel exports. President Trump's Executive Order on 3 June reconfirmed this will be

removed once a US for UK quota is implemented, as per the Economic Prosperity Deal.

We are in constant dialogue with domestic steel and aluminium sectors. We will continue to work with the US to get this deal implemented as soon as possible and in industry's best interests – supporting industry and protecting jobs.

■ **Iron and Steel: Manufacturing Industries**

Gregory Stafford:

[\[65566\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, when he next plans to conduct a national security assessment of (a) British Steel and (b) the wider UK steel industry.

Sarah Jones:

The government is conducting a range of assessments and analysis to inform future options for British Steel and our strategy for the steel industry. Matters relating to national security are under constant review. We do not comment on the timing or content of any assessments.

■ **Trade Remedies Authority: Remote Working**

Sir John Hayes:

[\[65706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how much the Trade Remedies Authority has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Justin Madders:

The Trade Remedies Authority has spent the following on equipment for safe and productive home working:

(i) 2022-23 = £5,695

(ii) 2023-24 = £2,010

(iii) 2024-25 = £3,672

This includes home working equipment such as desks, chairs, monitors, keyboards and mice. This does not include laptops or mobile phones.

■ **Universal Service Obligation: Rural Areas**

Mr Angus MacDonald:

[\[66498\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether he plans to ensure that the Universal Service Obligation applies to rural areas.

Justin Madders:

The government is committed to a sustainable universal postal service for users throughout the UK, including maintaining the one-price-goes anywhere principle including for those in remote and rural areas.

It is for Ofcom, as the independent regulator of postal services, to set and monitor Royal Mail's service standards and decide how to use its powers to investigate and

take enforcement action should Royal Mail fail to achieve its obligations without good justification.

CABINET OFFICE

■ Cabinet Committees: Public Appointments

Mr Richard Holden: [\[65883\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will list the secretary to each Cabinet (a) committee and (b) sub-committee.

Georgia Gould:

The Cabinet Secretariat works on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary to support Cabinet committees. Cabinet committees are supported by the Economic and Domestic Affairs Secretariat, the National Security Secretariat and the European and Global Issues Secretariat according to the Terms of Reference of the committee.

■ Cabinet Office: Marketing

Mr Richard Holden: [\[65885\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the document entitled Cabinet Office spend approvals: January to March 2025, published on 27 June 2025, what the purpose is of the Advertising, Marketing and Communications spending on Q4 mission activity; what (a) suppliers and (b) firms have been contracted to undertake this work; and what media channels will be used.

Georgia Gould:

The Q4 mission activity spend formed part of ongoing New Media Unit (NMU) work. The NMU utilises a wide range of digital and social media channels to reach target audiences.

The frameworks used for this spend were [Campaign Solutions 2 \(RM6125\)](#) and [Media Services \(RM6123\)](#).

■ Cabinet: Deputy Prime Minister

Kevin Hollinrake: [\[65796\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many times the Deputy Prime Minister has chaired Cabinet in the absence of the Prime Minister.

Georgia Gould:

The Deputy Prime Minister chaired Cabinet on 17 June 2025.

■ Civil Servants: Redundancy

Mr Richard Holden: [\[65884\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 2 July 2025 to Question 62332 on Civil Service: Redundancy, whether his Department has made an

estimate of the potential number of exits under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in each financial year until 2028-29.

Georgia Gould:

Departments have been commissioned to provide information on their planned use of exits to inform the development of the Civil Service Strategic Workforce Plan, due to be published later this year.

■ **Disclosure of Information**

Peter Lamb:

[\[66077\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of releasing withheld historic documents relating to (a) Mark Thatcher and the Omanis, (b) Request by Electronic Data Systems to employ Mark Thatcher, (c) proceedings of the Profumo inquiry and (d) the Peter Wright Spycatcher case.

Ms Abena Oppong-Asare:

No. These records are subject to regular review in line with the requirements of the Public Records Act 1958.

■ **Ethics and Integrity Commission: Correspondence**

Mr Richard Holden:

[\[65879\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether his Department has received any correspondence from external organisations on the Ethics and Integrity Commission since 4 July 2024.

Nick Thomas-Symonds:

The Cabinet Office regularly receives correspondence on a range of policy issues, including on manifesto commitments.

■ **Government Departments: Microsoft**

Sarah Edwards:

[\[65920\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how much the Government paid Microsoft for digital services for the last 12 months for which data is available.

Georgia Gould:

Full information on government spend with Microsoft is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office (CO), as individual departments and public bodies are responsible for their own procurement and contractual arrangements.

However, the Crown Commercial Service (CCS), an executive agency of the Cabinet Office, manages the Strategic Partnership Arrangement 2024 (SPA24) with Microsoft.

Through SPA24, approximately £1.9 billion has been spent on Microsoft software licences via third-party resellers in the financial year 2024/25. SPA24 enables all eligible UK public sector organisations to access discounted pricing on a range of Microsoft products.

■ **Government Departments: Procurement**

Dan Carden: [\[65842\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the National Procurement Policy Statement, published on 12 February 2025, when he plans to introduce a public interest test for contracting authorities to assess whether work should be outsourced.

Georgia Gould:

The Government is determined to deliver high quality public services and better value for money for the taxpayer. The Government is currently consulting on introducing a public interest test to assess whether expiring contracts could be better delivered, and drive better value for money, in-house. Contracting authorities are responsible for their own procurement decisions; introducing a public interest test will mean that authorities make evidenced-based decisions on the best way to deliver public services.

■ **Government Departments: Recruitment**

James Naish: [\[65567\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent assessment he has made of the potential impact of (a) anonymised CVs and (b) name-blind recruitment on diversity outcomes in Government departments.

Georgia Gould:

As set out in the [Civil Service People Plan 2024 - 2027](#), we are committed to ensuring we attract, develop and retain talented people from a diverse range of backgrounds to create a modern Civil Service.

Anonymous CVs and name-blind recruitment, which are already used widely across the civil service, limit the impact that bias may have on recruitment, so that candidates are judged on the skills and experience they have outlined.

■ **Labour: Public Appointments**

Mr Richard Holden: [\[65880\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 8 May 2025 to Question 48185 on Government: Policy, whether Mission Champions may have access to internal government papers.

Ellie Reeves:

I refer the Rt.Honorable Member to the response to PQ48185.

■ **Political Parties: Research**

Mr Richard Holden: [\[65881\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the document entitled Committee on Standards in Public Life 334th Meeting, Thursday 15 May 2025: Minutes, published on 30 June 2025, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research paper by José Pedro Lopes of the University of Manchester.

Georgia Gould:

The Committee on Standards in Public Life is an independent advisory body. It is a matter for the Committee to determine the information it publishes.

Public Sector: Procurement**Dan Carden:**[\[65846\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will take steps to consult trade unions on the (a) award of public contracts and (b) appointment of strategic suppliers.

Georgia Gould:

The Government is determined to ensure public money spent on public procurement delivers economic growth, supports small businesses, champions innovation, creates good jobs and skills opportunities across the country, and maximises social value.

Public sector procurement is subject to a legal framework set out by the Procurement Act, which encourages free and open competition and a focus on delivering value for money, in line with internationally and nationally agreed obligations and regulations. There is no specific legal requirement to consult trade unions on the award of public contracts or the selection of Strategic Suppliers. Individual Contracting Authorities are responsible for their own procurement and contract award decisions under the Act. Strategic Suppliers are selected based on the scale, scope and criticality of the services they provide, and are overseen centrally to observe their performance in the delivery of public services.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT**Glastonbury Festival: Kneecap****Jim Shannon:**[\[65768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions she has had with Glastonbury organisers on comments made at the festival by Kneecap.

Chris Bryant:

The Culture Secretary has made clear that previous comments made by Kneecap are appalling, and that celebrating and promoting prescribed terrorist organisations is a criminal offence. This Government unequivocally condemns threatening remarks made towards any individual, and political intimidation and abuse must have no place in our society.

Following conversations between the Secretary of State and members of the Jewish community on concerns about imagery and slogans on display at the festival, DCMS officials have met with Glastonbury organisers for detailed discussions on their procedures to monitor imagery on site, and the due diligence processes undertaken for festival acts.

■ Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Neil Duncan-Jordan: [\[65560\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will take steps to ensure that religious organisations' assets are scrutinised before making decisions regarding an extension of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Chris Bryant:

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme offers grants towards the VAT incurred on eligible repairs and renovations and is open to all listed places of worship. The future of the grant scheme will be considered as we work through the output of the Spending Review and Departmental business planning process.

Grants for the scheme are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by the eligibility of submitted invoices for repair work. The focus is on the nature of the conservation and repair work undertaken on historic buildings, and an organisation's financial assets or standing are not considered in the decision-making process.

■ Public Records: Disclosure of Information

Peter Lamb: [\[66080\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what information her Department holds on the reasons for which the National Archives has amended its policies on the disclosure of public records.

Chris Bryant:

The National Archives has not amended its policies regarding either the disclosure or reclosure of public records.

■ Video Games

Stephen Gethins: [\[66935\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of introducing legislation protecting the operability of purchased video games.

Chris Bryant:

The Government is aware of concerns relating to the operability of video games including the life-span of licensed, online-only video games. We appreciate the frustrations of players of some games that have been discontinued. The Government has responded to a petition on this issue.

There are no plans to amend existing consumer law on disabling video games. Those selling games must comply with existing requirements in consumer law, including the Consumer Rights Act 2015 (CRA) and Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs). We will continue to monitor this issue.

DEFENCE**■ Chinook Helicopters: Accidents****Sorcha Eastwood:**[\[65993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he plans to meet with bereaved families associated with the 1994 Mull of Kintyre Chinook crash.

AI Carns:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to Question 53163 on 3 July 2025 to the hon. Member for Angus and Perthshire Glens (Dave Doogan).

Attachments:

1. Chinook Helicopters: Accidents [53163 - Chinook Helicopters Accidents.docx]

Sorcha Eastwood:[\[65994\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what criteria was used to determine the 100-year classification of documents on the Mull of Kintyre Chinook crash in 1994; and whether a review of that classification has been held in the last five years.

AI Carns:

For personal information and information linked to identifiable living individuals, The National Archives and the Advisory Council for National Records and Archives advocate a closure period of the 'lifetime' of the data subject. This assumes a lifetime of 100 years but will be graduated down from the age or assumed age of the youngest individual in the record. The Ministry of Defence has not conducted a review of the classification of the records within the last five years.

■ Gaza: Humanitarian Aid**Rachael Maskell:**[\[66556\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has made a recent assessment of the potential merits of air dropping medical aid into Gaza.

Luke Pollard:

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office leads on coordinating the Government's humanitarian response to deliver lifesaving assistance to the civilian population in Gaza. The Ministry of Defence has provided military support when requested to facilitate the delivery of this assistance, including participating in airdropping aid as part of the Jordanian international coalition in 2024. However, the most effective way to meet the desperate needs of the Gazan people at the speed and scale that is needed is via overland routes.

■ Military Aircraft: Ministers**Mr Richard Holden:**[\[66297\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how much air passenger duty was paid for ministerial domestic travel on RAF-provided flights between 4 July 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Maria Eagle:

The total amount of Air Passenger Duty paid for Ministers who travelled on the RAF Envoy, on domestic flights, between 4 July 2024 and 31 March 2025 is £1,950.

■ **Ministry of Defence: Disclosure of Information**

Sorcha Eastwood: [\[65995\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on introducing duty of candour legislation.

Al Carns:

The Government remains committed to implementing a ‘Hillsborough Law’ which will place a legal duty of candour on public servants and authorities, and criminal sanctions for those who refuse to comply in certain circumstances.

The Cabinet Office and Ministry of Justice are the lead Departments in Government for this matter. Ministry of Defence officials continue to liaise with colleagues across Government on this important issue.

■ **Ukraine: Military Aid**

James Cartlidge: [\[66229\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will provide a breakdown of expenditure provided to Ukraine in each financial year since February 2022.

Luke Pollard:

Since 2024-25 the Government has committed to providing Ukraine with £3 billion of military support until 2030-31 or for as long as needed. The Government’s committed military support to Ukraine for each financial year is set out below.

	COMMITTED MILITARY SUPPORT (£BILLION)
2021-22	0. 3
2022-23	2. 5
2023-24	2. 3
2024-25	3. 0

A further £1.5 billion of support is being provided in 2025 as part of the Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) initiative. This takes our total support to Ukraine for this year to £4.5 billion, which is the greatest amount of support since Putin's full-scale invasion began.

The final figures for 2024-25 have been finalised and will be published in the Departmental Annual Report and Accounts.

EDUCATION

■ Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund

John Glen: [\[66150\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2025 to Question 58204 on Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of top-up funding for therapeutic support over the Fair Access Limit from (a) local authorities and (b) adoption agencies in this financial year.

Janet Daby:

The department does not collect information from local authorities and regional adoption agencies on whether, and if so, to what extent, they are adding financial top-ups to the therapeutic support available through the fair access limit.

John Glen: [\[66151\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2025 to Question 58204 on Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF), what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on the provision of updated guidance local authorities on the provision of adoption support services.

Janet Daby:

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, has regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues over a range of important matters.

■ Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund: Mental Health Services

John Glen: [\[65749\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the number of hours of therapy an applicant to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund would receive using this year's Fair Access Limit should they also require a specialist assessment costing the average amount calculated by her Department; and what assessment she has made of the adequacy of this.

Janet Daby:

The number of hours of therapy available to a child after a specialist assessment funded by the adoption and special guardianship support fund (ASGSF) is dependent on a variety of factors. This includes the cost of the therapy and in which financial

year the specialist assessment was completed. It is also important to note that additional funding may be made available by the local authority or regional adoption agency beyond that provided by the ASGSF, therefore increasing the amount of therapy available, should the specialist assessment recommend this.

Specialist assessments vary in cost, although the maximum the department can fund is £2,500 and the current average spend is slightly below this. If the maximum is used on a specialist assessment, this will clearly limit the amount of therapy which can be funded under the Fair Access Limit in the same financial year.

Outcomes measurement tool (OMT) data enables the adequacy of ASGSF-funded support to be monitored at local and national level. The department started to collect data from OMTs for ASGSF-funded therapies in December 2023. As therapy treatment concludes, this data will give an overall picture of the impact and adequacy of individual ASGSF-funded therapies. We are currently developing tools and methods for assessing this emerging information.

■ Apprentices

Wendy Morton:

[\[61533\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to help tackle barriers to employers engaging with the (a) apprenticeship and (b) training system.

Janet Daby:

Our Industrial Strategy sets out the interventions we will make to help tackle barriers to employer engagement with the skills system. This includes introducing shorter duration and foundation apprenticeships in priority sectors, the introduction of short courses in England, funded through the Growth and Skills Levy, from April 2026, and three packages targeted at skills needed in multiple Industrial Strategy sectors (digital, engineering, and the defence sector), building on our £625 million construction skills package to train up to 60,000 extra construction workers – crucial for delivering on our pledge to build 1.5 million new homes

This investment will be underpinned by deeper employer partnerships including launching Technical Excellence Colleges to develop pipelines of skilled workers for local businesses.

The Chair of Skills England, in partnership with the Industrial Strategy Advisory Council, will explore how employers, individuals and local and central government work together to address national skills needs, to support jobs of the future in the growth-driving sectors, and in particular opportunities for further business engagement and investment into the skills pipeline.

■ Apprentices: Eastbourne

Josh Babarinde:

[\[64892\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many employers in Eastbourne accessed apprenticeship levy funds in the last financial year.

Janet Daby:

120 employers in Eastbourne accessed funding for apprenticeships in the 2024/25 financial year to support new apprenticeship starts or those continuing their apprenticeships from previous years. This figure includes levy-paying employers as well as non-levy paying employers, who are likely to be small and medium-sized employers.

■ Art and Design: Education**Ms Polly Billington:**[\[62869\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential impact of art and design education on outcomes for students with SEND.

Catherine McKinnell:

The government established an independent Curriculum and Assessment Review in July 2024, covering ages 5 to 18. The Review seeks to deliver a rich, broad, inclusive and innovative curriculum that readies young people for life and work, including in arts subjects.

The Review is currently looking closely at the key challenges to attainment for young people, and the barriers which hold children back from the opportunities and life chances they deserve, particularly in relation to those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged or have special educational needs or disabilities.

The Review is also looking at specific subjects, including art and design. Any subject-specific findings and recommendations will be included in the final report in the autumn.

■ Artificial Intelligence: Training**Mr Andrew Snowden:**[\[65181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to provide training opportunities for people to upskill in the use of artificial intelligence.

Janet Daby:

Through our Industrial Strategy, published in June 2025, this government will ensure the skills system and employment support align with strategic economic priorities, including the needs of priority sectors and transformative opportunities like artificial intelligence (AI).

The government's commitment to realising the benefits of AI was also illustrated in January, when we agreed to take forward all 50 recommendations from Matt Clifford's AI Opportunities Action Plan.

New short courses in areas such as digital, AI, and engineering will be introduced in England, funded through the Growth and Skills Levy, to support Industrial Strategy sectors like Creative Industries and Advanced Manufacturing from April 2026.

From January 2027, the department will launch the Lifelong Learning Entitlement, enabling individuals to learn, upskill and retrain across their working lives. The first modular courses for approval will support progression into Industrial Strategy priority sectors.

The government recently announced a joint commitment with leading technology companies to provide 7.5 million workers with essential AI skills by 2030, around 20% of the UK workforce. Companies such as Google, Microsoft and Accenture have committed to making high quality training materials widely available to workers in businesses, large and small, across the country free of charge over the next five years.

■ Care Leavers: Hospitality Industry

Steve Darling:

[\[65952\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of care experienced young people securing employment in the hospitality sector following the cessation of local authority support.

Janet Daby:

The department is committed to ensuring that young people leaving care have stable homes, access to health services, support to build lifelong loving relationships and are engaged in education, employment and training.

The department fully recognises the potential benefits that employment in the hospitality sector offers to care leavers. 27 of the 237 organisations offering employment opportunities under our Care Leaver Covenant are from the hospitality industry. This includes Accor Hotels, Aramark, Birmingham Airport, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, PGL, Marston's Brewery and Pubs, and Merlin Entertainments.

Further, our Care Leaver Ministerial Board, co-chaired by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education and my right hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister, has been established to secure cross-departmental action to improve the outcomes and experiences of care leavers, including in relation to their employment.

■ Care Leavers: Housing

Mr Will Forster:

[\[64627\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to support Surrey County Council to deliver more housing for care leavers to improve Education, Employment and Training opportunities.

Janet Daby:

The government is committed to improving support for care leavers. Through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, we are placing a new duty on local authorities to provide 'Staying Close' support to care leavers up to age 25 where their welfare requires it and requiring local authorities to publish their arrangements for supporting care leavers' transition to adulthood. The Bill will also ensure care leavers cannot be found intentionally homeless and will introduce corporate parenting responsibilities for

government departments and relevant public bodies so that they better take the needs of care leavers into account. We also fund local authorities to help care leavers stay with their foster families up to age 21, known as 'Staying Put'.

Support is available for eligible care leavers to access bursaries to engage in education, employment and training, including £2,000 for university and £3,000 for apprenticeships.

Wider housing reforms will also benefit care leavers. On 2 July, we announced a ten-year plan to deliver the largest increase in social and affordable housing in a generation, alongside lasting improvements in safety and quality. Additionally, from 10 July, eligible care leavers under 25 will no longer need to meet a local connection or residency test to access social housing.

■ **Childcare: North East Somerset and Hanham**

Dan Norris:

[65694]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the provision of 30-hours of free childcare on the finances of families in North East Somerset and Hanham constituency.

Stephen Morgan:

On 7 July, the department published our 'Best Start in life Strategy', which sets out how we will make real change happen for families across the country.

From September 2025, eligible working parents will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare a week, over 38 weeks of the year, from the term after their child turns nine months until they start school. This will save eligible families using all 30 hours nationally up to £7,500 on average.

According to the 'Childcare and early years provider survey', this would be higher (£7,900) in Bath and North East Somerset due to higher childcare fees, though these estimates are likely to be more variable due to a smaller sample size. The survey can be accessed here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/8919d3d0-fd4f-4adb-8ae2-08ddbed6edd3>. To calculate this estimation the department has used local authority data from Bath and North East Somerset in the absence of constituency-level childcare fee data.

A recent Coram report shows the average cost to parents of a 25 hour nursery place for children under three in England has halved between 2024 and 2025.

■ **Children: Protection**

Anneliese Dodds:

[66251]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for the reduction in the number of children put on the child protection register for reasons including sexual abuse from (a) 2022-23 to (b) 2023-24 in England and Wales.

Janet Daby:

Baroness Casey’s national audit on group-based child sexual exploitation recommended the department interrogate the child protection data to identify the causes of the decline in child sexual abuse and exploitation representation.

The government has committed to urgently reviewing the child protection data. We must better understand the decline in child sexual abuse and exploitation representation in the assessment data and the reasons for variation across local authorities.

By the end of 2025, we will publish analysis that aims to better understand what has happened regarding the decline in child protection data on child sexual abuse and exploitation.

This will include analysis of child abuse victims’ demographics, outcomes, trends and local area variation over time. We will also work with the Child Sexual Abuse Centre to understand the specific issues outlined in this recommendation and will publish any related research once concluded.

Child sexual abuse is an abhorrent crime that no child should ever have to face, and it is of paramount importance that we do more to protect vulnerable children from the horrors of this crime.

■ **Department for Education: Remote Working**

Sir John Hayes: [\[62527\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much her Department spent on equipment for civil servants to work from home in each of the last three years.

Janet Daby:

The department does not hold a complete central record of all spending on equipment to support home working. Information is only centrally recorded where the individual costs exceed £500.

The department spent the following over the last three years on equipment which exceeded £500:

FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTAL SPEND ON EQUIPMENT EXCEEDING £500
2022/23	£28,103.73
2023/24	£53,675.59
2024/25	£46,576

To obtain comprehensive data which included spend on equipment below £500 for each of the last three years, it would be necessary to contact individual teams across the department, which would not be possible within the timeframe for responding to a Written Parliamentary Question, and would incur a disproportionate cost.

■ Department for Education: Translation Services

Rupert Lowe:

[\[61611\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much their Department has spent on (a) translation and (b) interpretation for languages other than (i) British Sign Language and (ii) languages native to the UK for people contacting (A) their Department and (B) its agencies in 2025.

Janet Daby:

The total cost incurred by the department in providing translation services, other than British Sign Language and languages native to the UK, is £180.

Language service needs and spend are assessed to ensure these services offer good value for money for taxpayers while maintaining high standards of service delivery.

■ Drama: Education

Jim Shannon:

[\[65775\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure children have access to drama education in schools.

Catherine McKinnell:

Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only.

Drama is included in the current English national curriculum, compulsory up to age 16 (key stages 1 to 4). At key stage 4, all pupils in maintained schools have an entitlement to study an arts subject, including drama, if they wish.

The government has established an independent Curriculum and Assessment Review, covering ages 5 to 18, chaired by Professor Becky Francis CBE. The Review seeks to deliver a rich, broad, inclusive and innovative curriculum, including drama. The final report and government response will be published this autumn.

To help meet our ambitions for improved and more equitable arts education, we will be launching a new National Centre for Arts and Music Education, which will promote arts opportunities to children and young people, support excellent teacher training in the arts, and boost partnerships between schools and arts organisations.

■ Education: Mathematics

Dr Simon Opher:

[\[64586\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to support (a) dyscalculic learners and (b) learners with maths learning difficulties.

Catherine McKinnell:

This government's ambition is that all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including dyscalculia, receive the right support to succeed in their education and as they move into adult life.

The department funds the Maths Hubs programme, a school-led network aimed at improving the teaching of mathematics for all pupils in publicly funded schools. The programme covers primary, secondary and special schools and uses a mastery-based teaching approach, which aims to secure understanding of key concepts. This includes training for teachers on techniques such as avoiding cognitive overload by breaking the learning down into small manageable steps, using representations to expose mathematical structure, and ensuring that learning is sequenced in a coherent manner so it makes sense to pupils.

Professionals can access online training to develop their understanding how the curriculum support learners. This includes approaches to support learners who face barriers to understanding of maths, such as those with SEND or dyscalculia.

■ Electronic Cigarettes

Paula Barker:

[\[65891\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions she has had with schools on the potential impact of (a) children buying vapes from their peers and (b) preventing the use of vapes in schools on levels of (i) behaviour and (ii) teacher morale.

Stephen Morgan:

The sale of vapes to under 18s is illegal, and the Tobacco and Vapes Bill will ban the sale of all consumer nicotine products to anyone under 18.

Schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy that sets out what is expected of all pupils, including what items are banned from school premises. The 'Behaviour in schools' guidance outlines effective strategies that will encourage good behaviour and the sanctions that will be imposed for misbehaviour, including vaping anywhere in school.

The relationships, sex and health education statutory guidance states that, in both primary and secondary school, pupils should be taught the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks. This includes smoking, alcohol use, and drug taking.

■ Family Hubs

Tom Hayes:

[\[66393\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many new Family Hubs were established by the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme scheme in 2022 by council area.

Tom Hayes:

[\[66394\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many existing Family Hubs received funding through the 2022 Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme scheme by council area.

Tom Hayes:

[66397]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) family hubs and (b) former Sure Start children centres are in operation in each council area.

Janet Daby:

On 25 January 2024, the government published a list of family hubs which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-family-hub-sites>. 75 local authorities have received joint funding from the department and the Department of Health and Social Care as part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme. As of March 2025, there were 551 family hubs in these local authorities. A further 13 local authorities have received support through the department's Family Hubs Transformation Fund. As of March 2025, there were 90 family hubs in these local authorities. The department does not routinely collect data on family hubs created by local authorities outside of these two programmes.

Data on children's centres that are in operation is supplied by local authorities via the Get Information about Schools database. A list of children's centres that are currently open is available to download at: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Downloads>.

On 2 August 2023, the government published Family Hubs and Start for Life: section 31 grant determination letters. A link to the letters can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-section-31-grant-determination-letters>. These letters set out the details of £301.75 million of funding for 75 upper-tier local authorities in England to deliver Start for Life and Family Hubs over three financial years between 2022 and 2025.

■ Family Hubs: Finance

Tom Hayes:

[65545]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what criteria she will use to decide the (a) placement and (b) funding of Best Start Family Hubs.

Tom Hayes:

[65546]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether Best Start Family Hubs will be located within walking distance of deprived communities.

Janet Daby:

Ensuring every child has the best start in life and the chance to achieve and thrive is the foundation of the government's Opportunity Mission.

We will spend close to £1.5 billion over the next three years on improving family services and early years education to begin the hard work needed.

We will fund Best Start Family Hubs in every local authority to ensure that children and families who need support the most, especially those from low-income backgrounds or with additional vulnerabilities, can access it. These hubs will be open to all families but will be located in disadvantaged communities where support is most needed. This ensures services are both inclusive and targeted.

The department will be providing guidance to local authorities in due course to support service delivery from April 2026.

■ **Family Hubs: Huntingdon**

Ben Obese-Jecty:

[\[65669\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether a Best Start Family Hub will be located within the (a) Huntingdon constituency and (b) Huntingdonshire District Council local authority area.

Janet Daby:

Ensuring every child has the best start in life and the chance to achieve and thrive is the foundation of the government's Opportunity Mission.

We will spend close to £1.5 billion over the next three years on improving family services and early years education. We will fund Best Start Family Hubs in every local authority to ensure that children and families who need support the most, especially those from low-income backgrounds or with additional vulnerabilities, can access it. These hubs will be open to all families but will be located in disadvantaged communities where support is most needed, ensuring services are both inclusive and targeted.

■ **Free School Meals: North Northumberland**

David Smith:

[\[64953\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of (a) free breakfast clubs and (b) the free school meal expansion on poverty in North Northumberland constituency.

Stephen Morgan:

This government is committed to breaking down barriers to opportunity and tackling child poverty, which is why the department is taking action to expand access to free breakfasts and lunches in schools.

Free breakfast club places are already being offered in six early adopter schools in North Northumberland.

Furthermore, Department for Work and Pensions data shows that 3,690 children in North Northumberland will be eligible to receive free school meals when provision is extended to all household in receipt of Universal Credit from September 2026.

Overall, this measure will lift 100,000 children out of poverty.

■ **Independent Schools Inspectorate: Finance**

Mr Jonathan Brash:

[\[66309\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department provides funding to (a) the independent schools inspectorate and (b) cover the cost of inspections undertaken by the inspectorate.

Stephen Morgan:

The department does not provide funding to the Independent Schools Inspectorate, and does not cover the cost of inspections undertaken by the inspectorate.

■ **Journalism: Education****Anna Gelderd:**[\[63373\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the evidential basis was for the decision to remove Strategic Priorities Grant funding from journalism courses.

Anna Gelderd:[\[63374\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of students likely to be affected by the withdrawal of Strategic Priorities Grant funding for journalism courses in 2025–26.

Anna Gelderd:[\[63375\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the removal of Strategic Priorities Grant funding from journalism courses in the 2025–26 academic year on the accessibility of journalism education.

Janet Daby:

The government provides funding through the Strategic Priorities Grant (SPG) on an annual basis to support teaching and students in higher education (HE). We are prioritising support for high-cost subjects that are essential to the delivery of our Industrial Strategy and for access to HE for disadvantaged groups. The removal of SPG funding for journalism courses aligns with this.

We are prioritising investment in science, engineering and technology subjects. Media studies, journalism, publishing and information services are all important and valued subjects, and the government acknowledges their importance, alongside numerous other subjects that do not attract SPG high-cost subject funding, such as history, languages, economics, mathematics and law.

Funding for all subjects, including journalism, will benefit from the increase in tuition fee limits in line with inflation. The maximum fee for a standard full-time undergraduate course in the 2025/26 academic year will increase by 3.1%, from £9,250 to £9,535.

HE providers are autonomous bodies, independent from government, and are responsible for deciding which courses to offer.

■ **Kinship Care: Finance****Grahame Morris:**[\[65001\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what is the eligibility criteria for local authorities to qualify to be a pilot area for a financial allowance for kinship carers.

Janet Daby:

All local authorities are eligible to apply for the Kinship Allowance Pilot, except for those which have received a section 114 notice and/or already offer a regular financial allowance that matches the National Minimum Allowance (NMA) to kinship carers with legal orders.

Local authorities remain eligible to apply if they pay a financial allowance that matches the NMA, but one of the following applies:

- Deductions are applied to the financial allowance, such as means testing.
- Financial support is provided for a limited duration.
- Financial support is only provided to some of the cohort.

Local authorities will be ineligible to apply for the kinship allowance pilot if all the following conditions are met:

- They provide a weekly financial allowance for all Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangements Orders, granted through either private or public law.
- The allowance is equal to or greater than the Fostering NMA.
- The allowance is paid continuously until the child turns 18.
- The allowance is not subject to any deductions or limits, such as means testing or time cap.

Further information can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-to-become-a-kinship-allowance-pilot-provider>.

■ Lifelong Education: Finance**Sarah Olney:****[62735]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on the introduction of lifelong learning grants.

Janet Daby:

The government recognises that lifelong learning is a core part of a sustainable higher education system which provides opportunities for all and offers learners greater flexibility in an ever-evolving economy. We are committed to supporting lifelong learning as part of our wider commitment to skills.

The lifelong learning entitlement (LLE) will transform the post-18 student finance system to create a single post-18 student funding system. From September 2026, learners will be able to apply for LLE funding for the first time for courses and modules starting from January 2027 onwards.

The department has worked with Ministers and officials in other government departments to ensure that its approach to lifelong learning will be as effective as possible, enabling people to gain the skills they need to support their careers.

Further information on the LLE can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lifelong-learning-entitlement-lle-overview>.

■ Private Education

Lee Anderson:

[66277]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department holds data on the number of children leaving private schools since July 2024.

Stephen Morgan:

The department does not hold pupil-level data on private school pupils and so does not have information on how many pupils have left private schools.

■ Private Education: Ashfield

Lee Anderson:

[66276]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children resident in Ashfield constituency attend (a) private and (b) independent schools.

Stephen Morgan:

The department publishes data on the number of pupils that attend an independent school on school census day. This data is published in the annual 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics' accredited official statistics. Constituency level data can be found in the underlying school level data files, which can be accessed at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics/2024-25>.

■ Schools: Absenteeism

Ben Maguire:

[66081]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of allowing flexibility for term-time absences for children from families employed in the (a) agricultural and (b) tourism sectors.

Stephen Morgan:

The department has high expectations for all pupils' attendance. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring regular attendance if their child is of compulsory school age and registered at a school.

Taking children out of school for holidays can significantly disrupt their education.

Missing one week each year, combined with typical absences for illness, can add up to two full terms missed by year 11. This also disrupts teaching and impacts the wider class.

While holidays can be enriching, the school year allows ample time for breaks outside of term time. Schools do have discretion to approve leave in exceptional circumstances, but holidays generally do not qualify.

The department understands some sectors face pressures at peak times, but we are not aware of any employer that prohibits leave during every school holiday. Schools also have flexibility to plan term dates and inset days to help families manage their schedules.

■ Schools: Attendance

Dan Norris:

[65695]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to improve school attendance in North East Somerset and Hanham constituency.

Stephen Morgan:

The department has a national approach to supporting all schools to improve attendance. Central to this approach are stronger expectations of local authorities and schools, as set out in the statutory guidance here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf.

In addition, the department is improving evidence on which interventions improve attendance. Over £17 million is being invested in mentoring projects supporting at least 12,000 pupils in 15 areas.

Regional improvement for standards and excellence teams support schools by sharing best practice across areas and empowering schools to better access support and learn from one another. This includes new Attendance and Behaviour Hubs, supporting around 550 schools in the South West each year.

Attendance is also supported by broader investments, including breakfast clubs in primary schools so that children start their day ready to learn, and Mental Health Support Teams which will provide access to specialist professionals in every school.

■ Special Educational Needs

Sonia Kumar:

[63250]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what support her Department is providing to schools that are experiencing an increase in pupils with an EHCP.

Catherine McKinnell:

This government wants all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to achieve and thrive. We will set out our plans for SEND and alternative provision (AP) reform in a Schools White Paper this autumn.

We are increasing high needs funding by £1 billion in 2025/26, raising the total to over £12 billion to help local authorities and schools with rising costs for pupils with complex SEND.

The department has published £740 million in high-needs capital allocations for 2025/26 to expand SEND and AP places. This funding can be used to improve classroom accessibility, establish specialist facilities within mainstream schools, and create special school places for pupils with complex needs.

We are committed to improving inclusivity and expertise in schools, drawing on learning from programmes such as Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).

■ **Special Educational Needs: Foetal Valproate Spectrum Disorder**

Andrew Gwynne:

[65744]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many Education Health and Care plans were given to children aged between seven and 15-years-old that have a diagnosis of Foetal Valproate Spectrum Disorder in 2024.

Catherine McKinnell:

The department does not hold statistics on how many children with foetal valproate spectrum disorder are issued with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Information on the primary type of need for all children and young people with EHC plans is available here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/f9f635d7-6712-4e64-172f-08ddbed4c851>.

■ **Special Educational Needs: South Ribble**

Mr Paul Foster:

[62707]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to improve SEND provision in South Ribble constituency.

Catherine McKinnell:

The government's ambition for all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is that they will achieve and thrive, and lead happy, healthy and productive lives. The department is working closely with experts on SEND reforms.

The department and NHS England have been supporting local areas to improve their SEND service delivery for several years. This includes a monitoring, support and challenge relationship following an inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Where a local authority does not meet its duties, we can take action that prioritises children's needs and support local areas to bring about rapid improvement.

Ofsted and the CQC undertook a joint local area SEND inspection of Lancashire County Council in December 2024. The inspection found there are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently. We expect a monitoring inspection will be carried out within approximately 18 months. The next full reinspection will be within approximately three years from December 2024.

Where a council does not meet its duties, we can take action that prioritises children's needs and supports local areas to bring about rapid improvement. We offer a range of universal, targeted and intensive support through programmes managed by the

department, such as our Sector Led Improvement Partners which provide peer-to-peer tailored support.

■ Special Educational Needs: Training

Andrew Cooper: **[62849]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that (a) support and (b) care workers who work with children and young people with SEN have access to adequate training before starting their roles.

Janet Daby:

The training that care and support workers receive before working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will depend on who employs the worker, and the purpose for which they are employed. If workers are supporting children with specific medical conditions, the following guidance explains how staff should be supported and trained in line with this guidance:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ce6a72e40f0b620a103bd53/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf>

For social workers, Social Work England is the regulator for the social work profession in England. It sets the professional standards that all social workers must meet throughout their careers. These standards include promoting the rights, strengths, and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities, including those with SEND.

The department has recently consulted on new Post Qualifying Standards, which give greater clarity on the knowledge and skills expected of child and family social workers, including in relation to children with SEND.

■ Technical Excellence Colleges: Apprentices

Blake Stephenson: **[63763]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to her Department's press release entitled Next generation of builders and carers set to rebuild Britain, published on 27 May 2025, whether Technical Excellence Colleges will be able to provide Level 7 apprenticeships.

Janet Daby:

The department is introducing technical excellence colleges (TECs) to specialise in training the skilled workforces which industry needs in priority sectors. This starts with the launch of 10 construction TECs from September 2025. TECs will provide the critical skills employers need across all qualification levels, including via apprenticeships. TECs will be able to deliver apprenticeships training at all levels where they are listed as an apprenticeships training provider on the department's apprenticeship provider and assessment register.

■ Trade Agreements: USA

Dame Harriett Baldwin:

[\[63572\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the UK-US Economic Prosperity Deal on her Department.

Janet Daby:

In May, the UK concluded a landmark economic deal with the US. This deal protects jobs in the automotive, steel, aluminium, pharmaceutical and aerospace sectors - sectors that employ over 320,000 people across the UK. In addition, an estimated 260,000 jobs are supported by the auto industry in the wider economy.

The government remains focused on making sure British businesses can feel the benefits of the deal as soon as possible. The government is continuing discussions on the UK-US Economic Prosperity Deal which will look at increasing digital trade, enhancing access for our world-leading services industries and improving supply chains.

The department will continue to support the ongoing negotiations with the US, led by the Department for Business and Trade.

■ Unemployment: Eastbourne

Josh Babarinde:

[\[63781\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to help reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training in Eastbourne constituency.

Janet Daby:

The government is determined to break down barriers to opportunity for all our young people and transform their life chances, including those in Eastbourne.

Young people are entitled to participate in education and training up to age 18. Local authorities have statutory duties to support young people into education and training, including identifying and helping those who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET). The department has published guidance to help local authorities identify young people at an increased risk of becoming NEET, based on characteristics such as a learning difficulty or disability, or poor school attendance, so they can be given extra support.

The government will establish a Youth Guarantee of support to access training, an apprenticeship or help to find work for all 18 to 21-year-olds to prevent them becoming excluded from the world of work at a young age. £45 million has been allocated to eight Mayoral Strategic Authority Trailblazers to develop the Youth Guarantee. The department will work with local areas on future expansion.

■ Universities: Finance**Mr Richard Holden:**[\[60215\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many Universities have received emergency funding from the Government since 4 July 2024; and how much money has been provided as part of that process.

Janet Daby:

The government has not provided emergency funding to any university since 4 July 2024.

Universities are independent from government and as such must continue to make the necessary financial decisions to ensure their long-term sustainability. If a university was at risk of failure, the department would work with the Office for Students (OfS) to ensure that students are protected, recognising the significant impact university closure would have on their future. The government reserves the right to intervene to protect students' interests, if necessary.

While the sector is autonomous, we are committed to creating a secure future for our world-leading universities.

To support universities in stabilising their financial positions, the OfS will continue dedicating significant resources to ensuring the sector's financial sustainability. The department has appointed Professor Edward Peck as the substantive Chair of the OfS, where he will play a key role in strengthening this commitment, while also expanding opportunities in higher education (HE).

Additionally, we have made the difficult decision to increase tuition fee limits by 3.1% (in line with inflation) from the 2025/26 academic year.

ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO**■ Clean Energy****Nick Timothy:**[\[65943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will publish a risk register outlining potential system stability risks under Clean Power 2030 decarbonisation scenarios.

Michael Shanks:

There are no current plans to publish a risk register. Great Britain has a highly resilient energy network. The National Energy System Operator has all the tools it needs to operate the electricity system reliably and can call on a range of technologies to balance electricity supply and demand, including gas-fired generation and flexible technologies such as batteries and demand side response.

Gregor Poynton:[\[66023\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of the report by the Association for

Decentralised Energy entitled Consumer-Led Clean Power: How to Unlock Consumer-Led Flexibility for Clean Power 2030, published on 17 June 2025.

Michael Shanks:

This Government supports significant growth in consumer-led flexibility, as set out in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. We are grateful to the Association for Decentralised Energy for its work in this area. In our Action Plan, Government committed to publishing a Flexibility Roadmap in 2025. The Roadmap will set out further detail on how the benefits of clean flexibility will be unlocked for the consumer, following the assessment of relevant evidence.

■ **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero: Arms Length Bodies**

Mr Richard Holden:

[\[65871\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, pursuant to the Answer of 30 May 2025 to Question 53535 on Arms Length Bodies, if he will list those delivery options.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

The options referred to in that response, including delivery options for decarbonisation, are being finalised. Further information will be announced in due course.

■ **Electricity: Prices**

Nick Timothy:

[\[65947\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of changes to Contracts for Difference liabilities if wholesale electricity prices remain elevated on levels of fiscal risk.

Michael Shanks:

Scaling up homegrown renewables reduces the UK's exposure to volatile global fossil fuel prices, which protects consumer energy bills against future price shocks. The CfD two-way payment mechanism protects consumers when electricity prices are high, as if the reference price is above the strike price, the generator must pay back the difference.

During the energy bill crisis over Winter 22/23, when wholesale electricity prices were higher, the CfD scheme reduced the amount needed to deliver our energy bill support schemes by around £18 per typical household. [1]

[1] This estimate is based on DESNZ analysis of the 2022/23 Ofgem price cap and wholesale cost allowance methodology for Q4 2022 and Q1 2023.

■ **Energy: Prices**

Gregor Poynton:

[\[66024\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of consumer flexibility on reducing energy costs; and what

steps his Department is taking to ensure that clean energy produced in Scotland directly impacts households in Scotland.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

Consumer led flexibility reduces electricity system costs for all by minimising the amount of peaking generation and associated network infrastructure that needs to be built in the long term. Modelling shows that deploying short duration flexibility such as consumer led flexibility, battery storage and interconnectors, could reduce electricity system costs by up to £70bn by 2050.

Our reforms through the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements to the current national pricing model deliver better incentives for industrial investment in Scotland in the coming years by encouraging market stability and investment. This will support the timely delivery of new generation in the right places – which is designed to lower consumer bills in GB, including Scotland.

Scotland is at the forefront of the drive towards clean energy, with Great British Energy headquartered in Aberdeen and Cromarty Firth recently being awarded £56 million to become the UK's first floating offshore wind port capable of making turbines at scale.

Mr Andrew Snowden:

[66713]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will make an estimate of the change in average household energy bills in (a) England and (b) Fylde since July 2024.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

Ofgem publishes historical price cap amounts, including broken down by region: [Energy price cap \(default tariff\) levels | Ofgem](#). The data is not available at constituency level.

The main reason for the increases to the price cap since 2022 is an increase in wholesale energy costs which are influenced by international fossil fuel markets which we cannot control. This is why our Clean Power 2030 Mission is so vital. The Government believes that our mission to deliver clean power by 2030 is the best way to break our dependence on global fossil fuel markets and protect billpayers permanently. The creation of Great British Energy will help us to harness clean energy and have less reliance on volatile international energy markets and help in our commitment to make Britain a clean energy superpower by 2030.

We recognise that we need to support households struggling with bills whilst we transition to clean power by 2030. On 19 June we announced that we are expanding the Warm Home Discount to around an additional 2.7 million households. This means that from next winter, around 6 million low-income households will receive the £150 support to help with their energy bill costs.

■ Fuel Poverty

Mr Angus MacDonald:

[\[66098\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of using community benefit funds from renewable energy projects to provide fuel vouchers to low-income households on levels of energy affordability.

Michael Shanks:

On 21 May, the government published a working paper on community benefits and shared ownership of low carbon energy infrastructure. The government recognises that community benefit funding from renewable energy infrastructure creates opportunities for long term investment into host communities, and the government believes that funding packages will have the most impact if they can be tailored to the community's preferences and priorities. The working paper intends to gather insight on how prescriptive the government should be on how funds can be used, and any other factors that should be considered in order to maximise their impact.

■ Gas Fired Power Stations

Nick Timothy:

[\[65945\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment his Department has made of the combined potential impact of multiple gas-fired plant retirements on (a) grid stability and (b) inertia levels.

Michael Shanks:

Great Britain has a highly stable and resilient energy system with diverse supplies.

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) continuously monitors the electricity system and ensures sufficient inertia and negative and positive reserves to manage large generation or demand losses, including through retirements of gas plant. In the transition to clean power, we are deploying the technologies needed to ensure the energy system remains resilient. In Great Britain, for example, NESO procure alternative technologies such as synchronous condensers and flywheels and use sub-second response services to manage frequency changes and maintain system stability.

■ Hydrogen: West Yorkshire

Imran Hussain:

[\[64163\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what plans his Department has to for hydrogen-related funding in (a) Bradford East constituency and (b) West Yorkshire, in the context of his Department's Net Zero Strategy.

Sarah Jones:

The UK Government is committed to supporting the growth of the hydrogen economy through its Hydrogen Allocation Rounds (HARs). In the first hydrogen allocation round (HAR1), announced in December 2023, 11 projects were selected to receive

over £2 billion in revenue support for green hydrogen production. Additionally, £90 million in capital grant funding was awarded, with the potential to create up to 760 new jobs.

This includes Bradford Low Carbon Hydrogen, located in Bradford city centre, which will produce hydrogen for diggers and buses. Published subsidy award details for this project include a Direct Grant of £13 million and £396 million under the Hydrogen Production Business Model. The exact amount of funding will depend on the hydrogen produced at the site over a 15 year period.

■ Insulation: Housing

Sarah Edwards: [65917]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what provisions his Department has put in place to help ensure the professional competency of firms that install insulation with support from the Great British Insulation Scheme.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

We recognise the importance of facilitating a competent and robust supply chain. All installations under government energy efficiency schemes, including the Great British Insulation Scheme, must be carried out by a TrustMark registered business. This includes a requirement to meet independent industry standards and to provide a warranty to the householder, in case something goes wrong.

The government recognises the need to reform a fragmented system and will introduce plans to drive-up quality and protect consumers through the Warm Homes Plan.

Sarah Edwards: [65919]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who is liable for the cost of repairing damage incurred from installing insulation under the Great British Insulation Scheme.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

All installations under government energy efficiency schemes, including the Great British Insulation Scheme, must be carried out by a TrustMark registered business. TrustMark registered installers are required to provide consumers with guarantees from a TrustMark approved guarantee provider. TrustMark have a 3-step dispute resolution process for when things go wrong which includes liaising with the original installer to carry out any required repairs in the first instance. Further information on the steps consumers can take and financial protection for installations can be found on TrustMark's website here: <https://www.trustmark.org.uk/>

■ Ofgem: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes: [65712]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, how much Ofgem has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

Ofgem is a non-ministerial government department. It has its own policies regarding the procurement and provision of equipment.

The total spent on 'working from home' equipment reflects an increased headcount to deliver additional remit for key government priorities, and steps to reduce its London office footprint to save money. In each of the last three financial years Ofgem spend is:

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>TOTAL £</i>
2022-2023	65,698.08
2023-2024	122,779.65
2024-2025	208,008.53
Totals	396,486.26

■ Power Failures**Nick Timothy:**[\[65944\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, how he plans to improve the integration of (a) demand-side response and (b) distributed energy resources to help reduce risks of blackouts in the next five years.

Michael Shanks:

Great Britain has a highly resilient energy network. The National Energy System Operator has all the tools it needs to operate the electricity system reliably and can call on a range of technologies to balance electricity supply and demand, including gas-fired generation and flexible technologies such as batteries and demand side response.

The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan sets out measures to increase consumer led flexibility (also known as demand-side response). Further details will be set out in the Clean Flexibility Roadmap that Government committed in the Action Plan to publish this year.

■ Private Rented Housing: Energy Performance Certificates**Nick Timothy:**[\[65935\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of requiring private rental properties to have a C grade on their Energy Performance Certificate by 2030 on (a) landlords and (b) renters.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

Government recently consulted on increasing minimum energy efficiency standards in the domestic private rented sector. The consultation included proposals for rented homes to achieve Energy Performance Certificate C or equivalent by 2030, and was accompanied by the Department's initial consultation-stage impact assessment.

The consultation has now closed, and we are currently analysing responses and reviewing evidence on the potential impact of these proposals. Following this, a government response and further impact assessment will be published.

■ **Solar Power: Finance****Josh MacAlister:**[\[65925\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, when his Department plans to publish its conclusions on the recommended (a) scales and (b) durations of Community Benefit Fund payments for (i) solar farms and (ii) associated Battery Energy Storage System developments.

Michael Shanks:

On 21 May, the government published a working paper on community benefits and shared ownership of low carbon energy infrastructure. The working paper intends to gather insight on proposals for mandatory community benefit scheme in Great Britain, including the types of energy infrastructure that could be captured, an appropriate level of benefit, and how best this could be calculated. The responses to the working paper will inform next steps on approach and policy design, and the government expects to publish a full response in due course.

■ **Tidal Power: Channel Islands****Andrew Rosindell:**[\[65730\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what steps his Department is taking to (a) support and (b) develop tidal power technology within the British Channel Islands.

Michael Shanks:

According to a study led by the University of Plymouth, the UK and the British Channel Islands has one of the world's best tidal resources, estimated to be a potential capacity of around 11.5GW.

The Channel Islands, as Crown Dependencies, are self-governing jurisdictions that are not part of the UK, and so the UK Government is not responsible for energy policy there. DESNZ engages with the CDs on energy matters, including renewable energy policy, under the British-Irish Council Energy Work sector.

■ Warm Home Discount Scheme: North East Somerset and Hanham

Dan Norris:

[\[65698\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the extension of the Warm Home Discount scheme on people living in North East Somerset and Hanham constituency.

Miatta Fahnbulleh:

The Warm Home Discount statistics for 2024-25 were published on 26th June 2025. These statistics cover receipt of the WHD for winter 2024/25. Estimates of future eligibility are not available at county or constituency level. Across Great Britain, we will be extending the WHD to an estimated additional 2.7 million households and bringing the overall number of households supported to around 6 million.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Agriculture: Finance

James MacCleary:

[\[66425\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help support the long-term financial security of farmers, in the context of changes made to the Sustainable Farming Incentive.

Daniel Zeichner:

We have allocated a record £11.8 billion to sustainable farming and food production over this parliament. We are investing more than £2.7 billion a year in farming and nature recovery, the largest budget for sustainable food production in our country's history to put healthy, nutritious food on our tables. We are working closely with farmers and industry stakeholders to design a future SFI offer that fairly and responsibly directs funding. Further details about the reformed SFI offer will be announced in summer 2025.

That is only part of our commitment to farmers.

We have also protected farmers in trade deals and provided a five-year extension to the Seasonal Worker route, giving farms certainty to grow their businesses.

We have appointed former NFU president Minette Batters to recommend new reforms to boost farmers' profits.

■ Air Pollution

Tim Farron:

[\[66132\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department will comply with the National Emission Ceiling Regulations emission reduction commitments for (a) NH₃, (b) NO_x, (c) SO₂, (d) NMVOCs and (e) PM_{2.5} in each year until 2030.

Emma Hardy:

The UK is projected to meet the emission reduction commitments for NH₃, NO_x, SO₂, NMVOCs and PM_{2.5} for each year to 2029 and to meet tighter commitments for 2030 and beyond for NO_x, SO₂, NMVOCs and PM_{2.5}. Projections published in March 2025 show a risk to the 2030 target for NH₃. UK Governments are considering further policies and measures to tackle NH₃ emissions that will help to reduce that risk.

Adam Jogee: [\[67653\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of aligning the UK's PM_{2.5} air quality targets with the World Health Organisation's 2021 guidelines.

Emma Hardy:

The revised Environmental Improvement Plan is due to include further details on the PM_{2.5} air quality targets set under the Environment Act 2021. The World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guidelines will continue to inform our evidence when considering future targets.

■ **Animal Products: Import Controls**

Mr Gregory Campbell: [\[66121\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what his plans are for future import of (a) animals and (b) animal meat products from Germany, in the context of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in that country.

Daniel Zeichner:

The import restrictions brought in as a result of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Germany were lifted on 14 May 2025. However, other import restrictions are in place linked to other disease outbreaks in the EU. These restrictions mean that live animal imports are not possible, for example, from bluetongue affected countries including Germany. Furthermore, restrictions on personal imports of many meat and dairy products are in place from the whole of the EU. A full list of restrictions on imports from the EU is available here and is kept constantly up to date to assist traders and the public: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/imports-and-exports-of-animals-and-animal-products-topical-issues>.

■ **Dangerous Dogs**

Neil Duncan-Jordan: [\[66095\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of breed-specific legislation in relation to dogs on levels of public safety.

Daniel Zeichner:

We are working with the police, local authorities and animal welfare groups to explore measures to reduce dog attacks and promote responsible dog ownership across all

breeds of dog. We have reconvened the Responsible Dog Ownership taskforce and look forward to receiving their findings and recommendations in due course.

Neil Duncan-Jordan: [\[66096\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what research his Department has commissioned on whether breed is a precursor for aggressive behaviour in dogs.

Daniel Zeichner:

The Government has reconvened the Responsible Dog Ownership Taskforce to explore measures to promote responsible dog ownership across all breeds of dog. We look forward to receiving its findings and recommendations in due course.

Neil Duncan-Jordan: [\[66097\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he plans to take to introduce standardised (a) recording and (b) reporting for dog (i) bites and (ii) strikes.

Daniel Zeichner:

The Government has reconvened the Responsible Dog Ownership Taskforce to explore measures to promote responsible dog ownership across all breeds of dog. As part of this work, the taskforce is considering improvements in data collection and reporting. We look forward to receiving its findings and recommendations in due course.

David Burton-Sampson: [\[66339\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans his Department has to review the adequacy of the current dog control legislation.

Daniel Zeichner:

Defra is working with the police, local authorities and animal welfare groups to explore measures to reduce dog attacks and promote responsible dog ownership. We have reconvened the Responsible Dog Ownership taskforce and look forward to receiving their findings and recommendations in due course.

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Agricultural Shows

Aphra Brandreth: [\[63805\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 26 June 2025 to Question 61476 on Agricultural Shows, which agricultural shows (a) he has and (b) his Ministers have attended since 5 July 2024.

Daniel Zeichner:

Defra Ministers have attended the following:

- Royal Cornwall Show
- Groundswell
- Great Yorkshire Show (in both 2024 and 2025)

- Royal Highland Show
- Royal Norfolk Show

■ Flood Control: Buckingham and Bletchley

Callum Anderson: [\[66771\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the Environment Agency on the prioritisation of flood resilience measures under the national investment programme in Buckingham and Bletchley constituency.

Emma Hardy:

We are investing a record £2.65 billion in 2024/25 and 2025/26 to improve flood resilience by maintaining, repairing and building flood defences. The full list of over 700 schemes to benefit from fresh funding this year was announced on 31 March 2024 and can be found [here](#).

Property Flood Resilience measures can be effective in managing the risk of flooding. This option will always be considered and assessed alongside a range of other Flood Risk Management solutions to determine which is the most suitable for the community at risk. In 2011, 96 properties in Buckingham were provided with Property Flood Resilience, with an expected benefits period of 20 years.

Callum Anderson: [\[66772\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to his Department's policy paper entitled Flood and coastal erosion risk management: an investment plan for 2021 to 2027, published on 29 July 2021, what estimate his Department has made of the number of flood defence schemes funded under the plan that affect communities in Buckingham and Bletchley constituency.

Emma Hardy:

In the Buckingham and Bletchley Constituency, four projects have received, or have had funding allocated, within the current FCRM investment-plan period which is now due to end in March 2026. Projects include delivery of Natural Flood Management (NFM) in Leckhampstead, an NFM catchment opportunity study, investigation into Sustainable-Urban-Drainage measures in Tingewick and works to Thornborough Sluice.

■ Fly-tipping

Wendy Morton: [\[65781\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will increase levels of funding for local authorities for enforcing the prevention of illegal waste dumping.

Mary Creagh:

The recent Spending Review provides over £5 billion of new grant funding over the next three years for local services that communities rely on. This results in an average overall real terms increase in local authority core spending power of 2.6%

per year. The majority of this new funding is unringfenced, recognising that local leaders are best placed to identify local priorities, which could include fly-tipping enforcement.

Defra has no current plans to provide funding to local authorities specifically for enforcing the prevention of illegal waste dumping. We are looking to support local authorities to tackle fly-tipping in other ways. Indeed, we are taking steps to develop new fly-tipping enforcement guidance and have commenced a review of their vehicle seizure powers to identify and remove barriers where we can.

Wendy Morton:

[65782]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost to local authorities of clearing fly-tipped waste.

Mary Creagh:

According to Defra official statistics, in 2023/24, around 4% of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities in England were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger. For these incidents, the cost of clearance to local authorities was £13.1 million. Local authorities do not report clearance costs for smaller incidents. These statistics are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fly-tipping-in-england>

According to independent research published by the Environmental Services Association in 2021, the estimated national cost of fly-tipping to the economy has increased from £209 million in 2015 to £392 million in 2018/19. A more recent assessment has not been made.

■ Fly-tipping: Prosecutions

Wendy Morton:

[65785]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support local authorities seeking to prosecute repeat fly-tipping offenders.

Mary Creagh:

The Government encourages councils to make good use of their enforcement powers, including prosecution, and we are taking steps to help them do so. We intend to develop new fly-tipping enforcement guidance and are also reviewing their powers to seize and crush vehicles of fly-tippers to understand how we could help them make better use of this tool.

While sentencing is a matter for the courts, the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group, which Defra chairs, has produced a guide on how local authorities can present robust cases to court. The guide explains that repeat offending could be an aggravating factor. This is available at <https://nftpg.com/>.

■ Food: Prices

Vikki Slade: [\[66067\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing price caps for basic foodstuffs.

Daniel Zeichner:

Defra regularly engages with supermarkets and producers on a range of food supply matters.

It is not for the Government to set retail food prices nor to comment on day-to-day commercial decisions taken by businesses. Nonetheless, we appreciate concerns about how these dynamics may affect the most vulnerable consumers and will continue to engage with industry stakeholders on these important issues.

The Government's Food Strategy, announced in December, is focused on creating a food system that delivers healthy, sustainable, and affordable food for all. We are working across the Government and with the food supply chain to help achieve better outcomes for consumers.

■ Food: Waste

Kim Johnson: [\[65889\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of mandatory food waste reporting on levels of surplus food redistribution in Liverpool.

Mary Creagh:

No assessment of the potential impact of mandatory food waste reporting on levels of surplus food redistribution in Liverpool has been made. Evidence in the 2022 consultation stage [Impact Assessment](#) showed that requiring food businesses to publicly measure and report their food surplus and waste can incentivise food waste reduction, including through surplus redistribution. As with all policies, if the policy were to be taken forward, a further assessment of costs and benefits would be published as part of the legislative process.

■ Inland Waterways: Sewage

Dan Norris: [\[65699\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help tackle high levels of sewage entering waterways.

Emma Hardy:

For too long, water companies have discharged unacceptable levels of sewage into our rivers, lakes and seas.

That is why we are placing water companies under special measures through our landmark Water (Special Measures) Act. The Act will drive meaningful improvements

in the performance and culture of the water industry as a first important step in enabling wider, transformative change across the water sector.

The Independent Water Commission, led by Sir Jon Cunliffe, will make recommendations to shape further action to transform how our water system works and clean up our waterways for good. The IWC will submit its final report later in summer 2025 with recommendations on how to reset the sector for the future.

As part of Price Review 2024 (PR24), which runs from 2025–2030, water companies will be delivering record of over £11 billion of investment to improve nearly 3,000 storm overflows across England and Wales. This investment will be targeted at those affecting the most sensitive sites for ecological and human health.

■ Nitrogen Dioxide: Pollution Control

Tim Farron: [66127]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2025 to Questions 45557, 45558 and 45559 on Nitrogen Dioxide: Pollution Control, whether Stoke on Trent is the only (a) city and (b) town in The Potteries reporting zone delaying compliance until 2032.

Emma Hardy:

Stoke on Trent is the only city in the Potteries delaying compliance with the NO₂ limit value.

Tim Farron: [66128]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2025 to Question 45552 on Nitrogen Dioxide: Pollution Control, whether he has had discussions with the Office for Environmental Protection on exceedances of nitrogen dioxide limit values.

Emma Hardy:

Defra has regular discussions with the Office for Environmental Protection on a range of issues.

Tim Farron: [66129]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department publishes information on the (a) Joint Air Quality Unit, (b) nitrogen dioxide programme and (c) nitrogen dioxide programme's Central Evaluation.

Emma Hardy:

The Joint Air Quality Unit has been established to deliver the actions set out in the published [Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide \(NO₂\) in UK \(2017\)](#) and the [Supplement to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations \(2018\)](#). The [Clean Air Zone Framework](#) sets out the principles for the operation of clean air zones in England, one of the air quality measures used in seven local authorities. These publications set out how local authorities with the worst air pollution concentrations must take robust action to improve air quality.

The NO₂ programme's [accounting officer assessment](#) is also published and shows assessments of regularity, propriety, value for money, feasibility and affordability.

The Evaluation of Local NO₂ Plans is publicly available on the DEFRA website at the following link: [Evaluation of Local NO2 Plans - AQ0851 \(defra.gov.uk\)](#).

Tim Farron: [66130]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which (a) local authorities and (b) metro mayors have published local plans to achieve compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide.

Tim Farron: [66131]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which (a) local authorities and (b) metro mayors have not published local plans to achieve compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide.

Emma Hardy:

Responsibility for developing plans to address nitrogen dioxide exceedances rests with local authorities, rather than metro mayors. We have agreed plans with the following local authorities:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council and Rochford District Council (joint plan)

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Birmingham City Council

Blackwater Valley (joint plan by Surrey Heath Borough Council, Guildford Borough Council, Rushmoor District Council and Hampshire County Council)

Bolsover District Council

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Bristol City Council

Broxbourne Borough Council

Coventry City Council

Derby City Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council (joint plan)

Greater Manchester (joint plan by Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council, Manchester City Council, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Rochdale Borough Council, Salford City Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, and Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council)

Leeds City Council

Leicester City Council
Liverpool City Council
Nottingham City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Reading Borough Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Southampton City Council
Sheffield City Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (joint plan)
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Tyneside (joint plan by Newcastle City Council, South Tyneside Council and Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council)
City of Wolverhampton Council

■ **Ofwat: Regulation**

Callum Anderson:

[\[66765\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of changes to the water regulation budget on Ofwat's regulatory capacity.

Emma Hardy:

Ofwat is the independent economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. Ofwat is directly accountable to Parliament, and its duties are set out in the Water Industry Act 1991.

Ofwat is primarily a levy funded regulator raising our income from water companies through licence fees. As a result of Ofwat's increase in funding as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, it will be able to respond to the pace of change required now and in the future. Ofwat has, and will continue to, recruit additional capacity and capability to support the government's longer-term plans for reforming the sector and to continue to improve the way it regulates to improve outcomes for customers, society and the environment.

■ **Pet Travel Scheme: EU Countries**

Mr Joshua Reynolds:

[\[66076\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the reinstatement of UK-issued pet passports for travel to EU member states; and what his planned timeline is for implementation of those passports.

Daniel Zeichner:

As announced at the UK-EU Leaders' Summit on 19 May 2025, the UK and EU have agreed to work towards a common Sanitary and Phytosanitary Area. This will mean

taking pets on holiday into the EU will be easier and cheaper. Instead of needing an animal health certificate each time you travel, you will be able to get a multiuse pet passport valid for travel to the EU.

With the principles and framework of a deal agreed, the Government will now need to negotiate the detail of an agreement. Our aim is to start the detailed negotiations as soon as possible, and Defra will provide more information on pet passports valid for travel to the EU in due course.

■ Planning Permission: Biodiversity

Mr Andrew Snowden:

[65963]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department plans to publish a publicly accessible register of biodiversity net gain credit schemes with information on (a) location, (b) pricing and (c) habitat type to support market functionality and planning decisions.

Mary Creagh:

Statutory credits are a last resort way of achieving BNG. They are different from biodiversity units, which are sold in the offsite market. If developers buy statutory credits, this is because it is not possible to restore habitats on-site or units are not available for purchase in the offsite market.

Defra does not intend to maintain a register of schemes in receipt of income from the sale of statutory credits; however the department is required to publish an annual report detailing income received from the sale of Statutory Biodiversity Credits, how that income was spent and (if applicable) the projected biodiversity value of the measures funded by that expenditure. The first annual report is publicly available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Demand for Statutory Biodiversity Credits has been low, suggesting that the offsite units market is working as intended.

■ Plants: Regulation

Sarah Bool:

[62123]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he is taking steps to reduce regulation on the plant breeding sector.

Daniel Zeichner:

The secondary legislation needed to implement The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 for plants in England was passed into law on 13 May 2025. Following a six-month implementation period, the new regulatory framework is due to commence on 14 November 2025.

This will unlock the potential benefits for British farmers and consumers, enabling the development of crops that are more nutritious, resistant to pests and disease, resilient to climate change and more beneficial to the environment.

Furthermore, through consultation across the relevant industries, the development of the first UK Plant Varieties and Seeds Strategy will look to support the UK plant breeding sector in meeting the challenges and opportunities of a changing world, and to maintain and enhance the UK's global reputation in plant breeding.

■ Sewage: Pollution Control

Ben Maguire:

[66484]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of creating a Clean Waters Forum including (a) charities, (b) NGOs and (c) representatives from (i) his Department and (ii) the Environment Agency to lay out a cohesive strategy to tackle sewage pollution.

Emma Hardy:

Following a public call for evidence with over 50,000 responses, the Independent Water Commission (IWC), led by Sir Jon Cunliffe, will make recommendations to shape further action to transform how our water system works and clean up our waterways for good. The IWC published its interim findings on 03 June 2025; the report's findings can be found at [Independent Water Commission publishes interim findings - GOV.UK](#).

The IWC will submit its final report to the UK and Welsh governments later in summer 2025 with recommendations on how to reset the sector for the future. Both Governments will then respond and consult on proposals, including potential legislation.

Ministers and officials have regular discussions with a range of stakeholders, including charities and NGOs, on many issues related to the water sector including on sewage pollution.

As part of Price Review 2024 (PR24), which runs from 2025–2030, water companies will be delivering record of over £11 billion of investment to improve nearly 3,000 storm overflows across England and Wales. This investment will be targeted at those affecting the most sensitive sites for ecological and human health.

■ Textiles: Manufacturing Industries

Harpreet Uppal:

[66052]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to review the (a) permitting and (b) waste exemption regime under the (i) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and (ii) Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 in relation to small-scale textile manufacturing facilities that (A) want to recycle waste from every part of the manufacturing process and (B) require longer than 12 months to safely store material for sustainable manufacturing purposes.

Mary Creagh:

The Government recently announced plans to reform the waste permit exemptions regime. We will remove three exemptions and tighten the conditions of seven others which have long caused problems and been abused. We will also introduce greater record keeping requirements for all waste exemption holders and impose limits and controls on how exemptions can be managed at one site.

Plans to tighten up the regulation of those who transport and manage waste services were also announced, moving them from a light-touch registration system into environmental permitting. This will give the Environment Agency a greater range of powers and more resources to be able to take action against those operating illegally.

The Government believes that small scale manufacturing facilities have an important role to play as we move to a circular economy. However, activities carried out under a waste exemption should be low-risk and small-scale and it is right that the throughputs and storage limits for exemptions do not exceed those of standard rules and bespoke environmental permits. Operators who wish to carry out larger scale operations that come with a heightened risk of, for example fire, should operate under an environmental permit.

■ Waste: Crime**Wendy Morton:****[65780]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of levels of penalties for waste crime.

Mary Creagh:

Legislation relating to waste crime such as fly-tipping and illegal waste sites allows for an unlimited fine and up to five years imprisonment. We are making the regulations for the transport and management of waste tougher so that those who break the new rules will face up to five years imprisonment. For lower-level offences it is important to ensure that penalties are high enough to act as a deterrent but not too high so that offenders cannot, or choose not to, pay the penalty. The Defra chaired National Fly-tipping Prevention Group has produced a guide on how local authorities, and others, can present robust cases to court. This is available at <https://nftpg.com/>.

Sentencing is entirely a matter for our independent courts. When deciding what sentence to impose for unlawfully depositing waste, the court will take into account the circumstances of the offence and any aggravating and mitigating factors, in line with sentencing guidelines for environmental offences, issued by the independent Sentencing Council for England and Wales.

■ Water Charges**David Simmonds:****[65899]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 12 June 2025 to Question 57661 on Water Charges, what estimate he has made of the average household water bill in each year from 2025 to 2030.

Emma Hardy:

The price controls set by Ofwat under Price Review 2024 came into effect on 1st April 2025. The average customer bill will increase by 36% over the next five years. These bill rises equate to around £3 additional per month on average, before inflation, over the next five years. This will pay to fix crumbling infrastructure, which will dramatically reduce sewage spills and lead to cleaner rivers, lakes and seas.

The Secretary of State has secured agreement with Ofwat that funding for vital infrastructure investment is ringfenced and can only be spent on upgrades benefiting customers and the environment. Ofwat will also ensure that when money for investment is not spent, companies refund customers, with money never allowed to be diverted for bonuses, dividends or salary increases.

■ Water Supply: Surrey Heath**Dr Al Pinkerton:**[\[66438\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to protect water supply during summer months in Surrey Heath constituency.

Emma Hardy:

The Surrey Heath constituency sits in the Environment Agency (EA) Thames Area. The Area has moved into 'Prolonged Dry Weather' status following significantly below average rainfall. As a result, EA and water company drought plans have been activated to secure water supplies. Defra and the EA are working closely with water companies and EA is managing water abstraction licences in the area to ensure existing water users and the environment remain protected.

Dr Al Pinkerton:[\[66439\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with Ofwat on mitigating clean water loss from households in Surrey Heath constituency.

Emma Hardy:

This Government works closely with the regulators to hold water companies to account on poor performance and drive improvements which benefit customers and the environment.

Ofwat sets specific performance targets for companies in the five-yearly price review, including for leakage and unplanned outage. Where companies fail to meet these targets, they must reimburse customers through lower water bills in the following financial year.

The Secretary of State meets with stakeholders regularly such as Ofwat to discuss a range of issues.

Dr Al Pinkerton:[\[67250\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with Ofwat on (a) odour in tap water and (b) rising household

water costs in Surrey Heath constituency; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of service provided by water companies.

Emma Hardy:

This Government works closely with the regulators to hold water companies to account on poor performance and drive improvements which benefit customers and the environment.

Ofwat sets specific performance targets for companies in the five-yearly price review. Where companies fail to meet these targets, they must reimburse customers through lower water bills in the following financial year.

The Secretary of State meets with stakeholders regularly such as Ofwat to discuss a range of issues.

■ **Water: Pollution**

James MacCleary: [\[66424\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to encourage farmers to ensure that (a) rivers, (b) streams and (c) lakes are protected from pollution.

Emma Hardy:

We are taking action to address agricultural pollution and support farm businesses. We are, as a priority, working with farmers and environmental groups to improve farm pollution regulations to ensure they are simple and effective. We are also doubling funding for Environment Agency farm inspections to work with farmers to raise standards and have issued amended Statutory Guidance on the Farming Rules for Water to set clearer expectations on enforcing the rules. We continue to invest in our farmers through Environmental Land Management schemes.

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

■ **China: Foreign Influence Registration Scheme**

Alicia Kearns: [\[65866\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether the China Audit recommended placing China in the enhanced tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme.

Catherine West:

The Audit examined the full range of considerations in our relationship with China, including National Security. We keep all designations on the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme Enhanced Tier under review.

■ China: Foreign Relations

Kevin Hollinrake:

[\[65801\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament will be given a full copy of the China Audit; whether it will be shared with HM Opposition on Privy Council terms; and if he will publish a security redacted version.

Catherine West:

It is right that Parliament should have the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the Government, as its responsibility. There are mechanisms in place for certain parliamentarians to have access to classified Government material, such as parts of the Audit. It is not unusual that our China strategy - or that of any other country - remains internal. This is consistent with our Five Eyes partners.

Kevin Hollinrake:

[\[65802\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will submit a copy of the China Audit to the designated Planning Minister who is now considering the called-in planning application for the Chinese Embassy at the Royal Mint, London.

Catherine West:

The Foreign Secretary will not be submitting a copy of the China Audit to the designated Planning Minister. However, on 14 January, the Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary submitted written representations to the Planning Inspector to ensure national security concerns are fully considered. These representations are publicly available on the Tower Hamlets website and form part of the evidence that will be reviewed by the Planning Minister.

■ China: Human Rights

Sammy Wilson:

[\[66133\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department has submitted any recent human rights reports to the UN on China's regulation of (a) religious education and (b) clergy training.

Catherine West:

Chinese regulations on religious activity severely restrict religious and cultural expression in China. This Government stands firm on human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief.

We continue to uphold the right to freedom of religion or belief through our position at the UN, G7 and other multilateral fora. We have raised these concerns recently with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. We also joined an Australia-led joint statement at the UN General Assembly in October 2024 on freedoms in the Xinjiang and Tibetan regions, calling out the erosion of educational and religious rights and freedoms in China.

■ Cyprus: Military Bases

Saqib Bhatti: [\[66298\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Cypriot counterparts on the status of the Sovereign Base Areas in (a) Akrotiri and (b) Dhekelia.

Saqib Bhatti: [\[66299\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of (a) Akrotiri and (b) Dhekelia Sovereign Base Areas on regional stability in the Middle East.

Saqib Bhatti: [\[66300\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support the Sovereign Base Areas in Akrotiri and Dhekelia.

Stephen Doughty:

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Ministers have not discussed the status of the Sovereign Base Areas with counterparts from the Republic of Cyprus, which was secured by the 1960 Treaty of Establishment.

Ministers and officials however regularly engage with counterparts in the Republic of Cyprus regarding activities at the bases and regional security. For example, following the recent escalation between Israel and Iran, the Foreign Secretary and I have regularly spoken to our counterparts about regional stability, including the important contribution the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) make to the security of the region.

I also speak directly to the SBAs Administrator on a range of issues. The FCDO supports cooperation between the SBAs and the Republic of Cyprus, including on shared challenges such as forest fires, protecting the environment, crime and immigration. The FCDO also supports discussions on the implementation of the Protocol relating to the SBAs agreed between the UK and the EU, which entered into force on 1 February 2020.

■ Developing Countries: Education

David Taylor: [\[66482\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to make use of innovative financing mechanisms to support global education outcomes.

Stephen Doughty:

Generating more innovative finance is a priority for the UK to address the \$97 billion annual financing gap for global education.

The UK is a founding donor to the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd). This innovative guarantee mechanism unlocks \$7 in new concessional

lending from Multilateral Development Banks, for every \$1 of Official Development Assistance. In the start-up phase, IFFEd will unlock \$1 billion.

The UK is also engaging with philanthropy and the private sector to channel more finance to education. Through our support to the Global Partnership for Education Multiplier, the UK has helped raise a further \$3.7 billion from 64 co-financers across 52 partner countries since 2021.

In Sierra Leone and Ghana, we support the Education Outcomes Fund to mobilise impact investment to improve children's learning outcomes. In Kenya, we are testing disaster risk finance to protect school infrastructure, keeping children safe and learning when climate disasters hit.

David Taylor:

[\[66483\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential impact of (a) the International Finance Facility for Education and (b) other innovative finance models on delivering value for money in education spending.

Stephen Doughty:

It is too early to assess the impact of the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) which was established only in 2024. The first investment cases will be approved by IFFEd's Board at the end of 2025 and projects will then begin implementation by the Asian Development Bank. An evaluation of IFFEd will take place over the next three years to understand impact.

The value for money assessments of our Results-Based Finance pilots through the Education Outcomes Fund (EOF) in Ghana and Sierra Leone are ongoing. Early analysis suggests the approach, which pays only for results achieved, leads to greater impact on children's learning outcomes. The final analysis will be available in 2026.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Multiplier was externally evaluated in 2023. The Multiplier was found to be an effective mechanism for unlocking additional education finance, including from new philanthropic and private sector sources, of which 30% has been non-Official Development Assistance.

■ Development Aid: Women

Lisa Smart:

[\[64541\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of proposed reductions to Official Development Assistance on women and girls' reproductive (a) health and (b) rights.

Stephen Doughty:

The UK is committed to promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), recognising that health and rights are co-dependent and mutually reinforcing. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is one of multiple levers to achieve this. We will

continue to work with international partners and use targeted funding, technical partnership and diplomatic engagement to provide leadership on SRHR.

Following the recent Spending Review, detailed decisions on how the ODA budget will be used are being worked through as part of ongoing resource allocation processes. Decisions on individual programmes and thematic areas, such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, will be based on various factors including equality impact assessments. We will publish the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ODA allocations for Financial Year 2025/26 in the Annual Report & Accounts in July.

■ **Embassies: Planning Permission**

Kevin Hollinrake: [\[65800\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2025 to Question HL8020 on Embassies: Planning Permission, whether his Department holds such information.

Catherine West:

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office does not record such information.

■ **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Ethnic Groups**

Preet Kaur Gill: [\[66617\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing specific (a) Sikh and (b) Jewish options for a person's ethnic group in data collection conducted by his Department.

Catherine West:

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office follows the Government Statistical Service's harmonised standard for ethnicity classification. We will not unilaterally change our data categories as it would make our data inconsistent with wider Civil Service and Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistics.

■ **Holocaust: Disinformation**

Louise Haigh: [\[65793\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of the report by the UNESCO entitled AI and the Holocaust: rewriting history, published on 18 June 2024.

Stephen Doughty:

The Government welcomes the publication of this report, which explores both the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Holocaust remembrance and education.

We remain committed to working internationally on both developing safe, secure, and responsible AI and promoting education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust. We must continue to stand against Holocaust distortion in all its forms, including AI-facilitated distortion.

AI was a focus area of the UK's recent presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, held from March 2024 to February 2025. In October 2024, our presidency co-sponsored an event with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Romania to consider how AI could improve Holocaust education and identify and tackle instances of antisemitism and Holocaust distortion online.

■ **Palestine Action**

Brian Leishman:

[66037]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether the Prime Minister discussed the proscription of Palestine Action with President Trump on (a) 10 and (b) 30 March 2025.

Stephen Doughty:

I refer the Hon Member to the read-outs of the discussion with President Trump on 10 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-president-trump-of-the-united-states-10-march-2025>) and 30 March (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-president-trump-of-the-united-states-30-march-2025>) published on gov.uk.

■ **Ukraine: Mental Health**

Mrs Elsie Blundell:

[65460]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking to support the mental health needs of children in Ukraine.

Stephen Doughty:

The UK remains committed to supporting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children affected by the war in Ukraine. This year, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will provide £9.4 million to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) to target urgent needs - including mental health and psychosocial support. URCS will support the delivery of community-based psychosocial services, including, safe, accessible spaces where children can receive essential support, and will expand training for mental health professionals promoting regional knowledge-sharing.

The UK is also leading a multi-donor programme, Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine, which will enhance the capacity of Ukraine's education system to respond to the mental health needs of children. This programme focuses on equipping schoolteachers with the skills to identify signs of psychological distress and to facilitate appropriate referrals, thereby embedding mental health awareness and support within the school environment.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

■ Accident and Emergency Departments

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[\[65323\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of emergency departments were co-located with urgent treatment centres in the most recent period for which data is available.

Karin Smyth:

There are currently 86, which is approximately half, type 1 accident and emergency units with a co-located urgent treatment centre (UTC).

Further co-located UTCs will be built as a result of the capital funding provided as part of our Urgent and Emergency Care Plan for 2025/26.

■ Bereavement Counselling and Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Carla Lockhart:

[\[65334\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure equitable access to (a) maternity and (b) bereavement care services for Black and Asian families.

Karin Smyth:

It is a priority for this Government to make sure all women and babies receive high-quality and equitable access to care, regardless of their background, location or ethnicity.

As part of NHS England's three-year delivery plan for maternity and neonatal services, all local areas now have in place Equity and Equality action plans. These plans tackle inequalities and barriers to access for women and babies from ethnic minorities and those living in the most deprived areas and also set out how they will equip staff to provide culturally competent care. Integrated Care Boards are responsible for assuring implementation of these plans, and evidence suggests the plans have led to prioritisation of equity for mothers and babies, and increased engagement with service users.

NHS England is also ensuring that maternity healthcare professionals receive training on culturally competent care, which can be a barrier to equitable access for black and Asian women. This is done through their Core Competency Framework and provision of the Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety in Maternity Services e-learning course. Over 15,400 maternity staff have completed this. NHS England has also embedded equity-focused leadership development through the Perinatal Culture and Leadership Programme. All 150 maternity and neonatal units in England have participated in the programme.

With regards to bereavement care services, all trusts in England are now signed up to the National Bereavement Care Pathway, which covers a range of circumstances of baby loss. The aim is to ensure that all bereaved parents, regardless of their

background, location or ethnicity, are offered equal, high quality, personalised, safe and sensitive care. In addition, '7 days a week' bereavement services are being set up in every area in England to support women and families who experience pregnancy loss or neonatal death.

We recognise that to deliver consistently high-quality care, much more is required. On 23 June 2025, my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, announced he would be launching an independent, national investigation into NHS maternity and neonatal services to look at the systemic issues behind why so many women, babies and families experience unacceptable care, and to rapidly put in place solutions to improve maternity safety and quality. Alongside this, he also announced that we would be establishing a National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce, which he will chair. Membership of that taskforce will be representative of those who can speak to the inequalities within maternal health.

■ Blood Cancer: Health Professions

Mr Clive Betts:

[R] [\[66513\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the NHS Workforce Plan will include policies on blood cancer healthcare professionals.

Mr Clive Betts:

[R] [\[66514\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the NHS Workforce Plan will take steps to increase the number of clinical academics dedicated to blood cancer research.

Karin Smyth:

The 10 Year Workforce Plan will be published later this year. It would not be right to pre-empt the details that will be in the plan. We will work with partners to make sure we have the right people, in the right places, with the right skills.

The Department, through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), is the largest funder of clinical academic training in the United Kingdom, delivering a comprehensive research career pathway for the full range of clinicians. The NIHR welcomes applications for training awards from the clinical and non-clinical academic workforce conducting research into any aspect of human health, including blood cancer. The NIHR continuously reviews the training offer to identify and address gaps across specialism, geography, and profession, in line with the Department's priorities.

■ Breastfeeding

Nick Timothy:

[\[65938\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to improve breastfeeding support in (a) the east of England and (b) England.

Ashley Dalton:

The Government is committed to raising the healthiest generation of children ever and giving every child the best start in life. We know breastfeeding has significant health benefits for babies and for their mothers.

Through the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, we are investing £18.5 million in 2025/26 to improve infant feeding support across 75 local authorities in England, including Bedford, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, and Thurrock in the East of England. We have also extended and expanded the National Breastfeeding Helpline so that more families across the United Kingdom can access breastfeeding support 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Most families will be receiving their breastfeeding support from midwives and health visitors. We are committed to strengthening these services and are already making progress.

Neil Duncan-Jordan:[\[66090\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to promote the benefits of breast feeding to new mothers.

Ashley Dalton:

The Government is committed to raising the healthiest generation of children ever and to giving every child the best start in life. We want every parent to understand the benefits of breastfeeding so that they can make informed decisions about how to feed their baby.

Through the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, we are investing £18.5 million in 2025/26 to improve infant feeding support across 75 local authorities in England. This includes promoting the benefits of breastfeeding and supporting families to achieve their infant feeding goals. The Start for Life communications programme also promotes the benefits of breastfeeding via a website, email, and public awareness campaign.

Most families will receive advice on the benefits of breastfeeding and support from midwives and health visitors. We are committed to strengthening these services and are already making progress.

■ Cancer: Drugs**Edward Morello:**[\[66835\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if she will take steps to review pharmacy procurement practices for generic cancer drugs in rural areas.

Karin Smyth:

The Department has no current plans to specifically review pharmacy procurement practices for generic cancer drugs in rural areas. Pharmacies are largely private businesses which provide National Health Services, and therefore have their own buying arrangements.

The Government's policy on generic medicines is to allow suppliers freedom of pricing for their products, relying on competition between suppliers and efficient purchasing by community pharmacies to deliver value for money for the NHS.

■ **Community Health Services: Medical Equipment**

Helen Morgan: [\[66672\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has made an assessment of the financial viability of providers of community equipment.

Helen Morgan: [\[66673\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with providers of community equipment on the financial resilience of those providers.

Karin Smyth:

[Holding answer 16 July 2025]: The Department is aware of concerns raised by community equipment suppliers. NHS England has published planning guidance setting out the funding available to integrated care boards and the overall approach to funding National Health Service providers in the next financial year, which takes account of a variety of pay and non-pay factors and pressures on providers of secondary healthcare. The NHS Payment Scheme is equally applicable to NHS and non-NHS providers of secondary healthcare.

Local authorities and local NHS procuring authorities, whether integrated care boards or NHS providers, are responsible for discussing and agreeing contracts with community equipment providers, which will consider the resources available to them. At the Autumn 2024 Budget, the Government announced a £22.6 billion increase in day-to-day health spending and a £3.1 billion increase in the capital budget over both the last financial year and this year. Departmental budgets beyond 2025/26 have now been set through phase 2 of the Spending Review. This includes £29 billion more day-to-day funding in real terms than 2023/24 for the NHS, and the largest ever health capital budget, with a £2.3 billion real terms increase in capital spending over the Spending Review period.

■ **Dental Services: Surrey Heath**

Dr Al Pinkerton: [\[66810\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure individuals receive timely reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 to support access to dental services in Surrey Heath constituency.

Stephen Kinnock:

The National Health Service contracts with independent dental providers to deliver NHS dental treatment in primary care settings. Dental practices are businesses and therefore able to decide how they operate, providing they remain compliant with the appropriate regulations.

Integrated care boards (ICBs) are responsible for undertaking special care oral health needs assessments, to identify areas of oral health need, to inform local commissioning intentions, and to determine the local priorities for investment. For the Surrey constituency, this is the NHS Surrey Heartlands.

The NHS constitution states that NHS services will always be available for the people who need them. No one can deny a person the right to access these services because of their age, disability, race, gender or gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, or marital or civil partnership status. The Handbook to the NHS Constitution is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplements-to-the-nhs-constitution-for-england/the-handbook-to-the-nhs-constitution-for-england>

Care Quality Commission regulations mandate that all registered providers must have due regard to the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

Furthermore, Community Dental Services provide care to patients who may have difficulty accessing high street dental services due to their social, medical, or dental need. This may include children with learning disabilities, complex medical needs, physical disabilities, or challenging behaviour.

■ Department of Health and Social Care: Palantir

Martin Wrigley: [66353]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has received recent correspondence from Palantir.

Karin Smyth:

My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care received a letter from Louis Mosley, the Executive Vice President for the United Kingdom and Europe of Palantir Technologies, on 3 March 2025, offering to meet to discuss the roll-out of the NHS Federated Data Platform.

■ Doctors: Conditions of Employment and Pay

Dr Caroline Johnson: [R] [66243]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on what dates he has met the British Medical Association to discuss resident doctors (a) pay and (b) terms and conditions in 2025.

Karin Smyth:

[Holding answer 16 July 2025]: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has met with the British Medical Association to discuss these issues a number of times. The dates and details of these meetings can be found in Department transparency returns, in the usual way.

■ Drugs

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[65330]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to his Department's publication, Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England, published on 3 July 2025, how the single national formula for medicines will differ from the British national (a) formulary and (b) formulary for children.

Karin Smyth:

The document Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England, published on 3 July 2025, describes the creation of a Single National Formulary (SNF) for medicines to supersede the current process by which each local area decides which medicines are available to its patients. A SNF is expected to supersede these local processes with a formulary oversight board responsible for sequencing products included in the SNF, based on clinical and cost effectiveness, and supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The intention is to drive rapid and equitable adoption of the most clinically and cost-effective medicines.

Work will now begin on design and delivery planning, and we will work collaboratively with key stakeholders, including NICE and industry, on the plans.

The British National Formulary and the British National Formulary for Children are publications of the British Medical Journal and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, that are available on the NICE website. They provide healthcare professionals with a range of information on the selection, prescribing, administration, and dispensing of medicines.

■ Drugs: Finance

Helen Morgan:

[66307]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much funding his Department plans to provide for the roll-out of (a) fampridine and (b) other new drugs in each year of this Parliament.

Karin Smyth:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is the independent body responsible for developing authoritative, evidence-based recommendations for the National Health Service on whether new medicines represent a clinically and cost-effective use of resources.

The NHS in England is legally required to fund medicines recommended in a NICE appraisal, usually within three months of final guidance. Information about the amount of funding the NHS plans to provide for the roll-out of new drugs is not available. Commissioners within NHS England receive funding each year to commission services for their population, which includes funding for new and established medicines. Fampridine, however, has not been recommended by NICE, so is not available for routine NHS use within England.

■ Eating Disorders: Health Services

Dr Luke Evans:

[61900]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that updates made to NHS England guidance help inform the NHS 10 Year Health Plan; and which stakeholders in the eating disorders sector have provided views in his Department's consultation processes.

Stephen Kinnock:

Patients in England are not registered with a National Health Service dental practice, although many NHS dental practices do tend to see patients regularly. There is no geographical restriction on which practice a patient may attend. Some dental practices may operate local waiting list arrangements.

The Government plans to tackle the challenges for patients trying to access NHS dental care with a plan to provide 700,000 more urgent dental appointments and recruit new dentists to the areas that need them most.

The responsibility for commissioning primary care services, including NHS dentistry, to meet the needs of the local population has been delegated to the integrated care boards (ICBs) across England. For the Surrey Heath constituency, this is the NHS Surrey Heartlands ICB. ICBs have been asked to start making extra urgent dental appointments available from April 2025. The Surrey Heartlands ICB is expected to deliver 6,585 additional urgent dental appointments as part of the scheme.

ICBs have started to recruit posts through the Golden Hello scheme. This recruitment incentive will see up to 240 dentists receiving payments of £20,000 to work in those areas that need them most for three years. As of 6 June 2025, in England there were 73 dentists in post with a further 20 dentists who have been recruited but are yet to start in post under this scheme. A further 230 posts are currently being advertised.

As a first step to reforming the dental contract, we are consulting on a package of changes to improve access to, and improve the quality of, NHS dentistry, which will deliver improved care for the diverse oral health needs of people across England. A link to the consultation is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-dentistry-contract-quality-and-payment-reforms>

The consultation was launched on 8 July and will close on 19 August.

■ Food Standards Agency: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes:

[65715]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much the Food Standards Agency has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Ashley Dalton:

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has a long-established contractual flexible working offer known as Our Ways of Working (OWOW). The 2013 Civil Service Reform project, The Way We Work, required Government organisations to adopt Smarter Working by 2022, leading the FSA to introduce OWOW in 2016. In the past three years, the FSA has spent the following on equipment to enable staff to work from home:

- £54,394 in 2024/25;
- £60,794 in 2023/24; and
- £73,250 in 2022/23.

OWOW supports the Government's Places for Growth programme by recruiting based on merit, not location. This increases opportunities in regions and nations, and has enabled the FSA to reduce the square meterage of its estate by 50%.

■ **Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust and Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Max Wilkinson:[\[62682\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to his speech to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists World Congress, published on 23 June 2025, what his planned timetable is for the NHS Chief Executive and Chief Nursing Office to meet (i) Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and (ii) Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust; and if he will publish the outcomes of those meetings.

Karin Smyth:

An initial meeting between the Chief Executive of the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the NHS Chief Executive, and the Chief Nursing Officer for England to discuss maternity and neonatal services took place on 25 June 2025. Further in-depth meetings will take place in due course, and following these meetings the trust board should report on their progress to their public board.

■ **Health Services: Power Failures**

Nick Timothy:[\[65941\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has participated in cross-Government exercises simulating the potential impact of national blackouts on (a) health services, (b) emergency responders and (c) energy regulators used by healthcare services.

Ashley Dalton:

The Department has participated in a cross-Government exercise simulating the potential impacts of national power outages on health services and emergency responders. The Department has been working on the lessons identified from this exercise to improve the resilience of the health and social care sector against the risk

of a national power outage. This includes developing response plans and participating in cross-sector exercises.

The Government, through the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, works closely with industry to continually improve and maintain the resilience of energy infrastructure, networks, and assets, including those offshore.

■ Health Services: Staff

Helen Morgan:

[\[65468\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to page 110 of the document entitled Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for the NHS, whether his Department has made an estimate of how many fewer staff there will be in the NHS by 2035 than projected by the 2023 Long Term Workforce Plan.

Karin Smyth:

This assessment will be made through the 10-Year Workforce Plan which will consider what the 10-Year Health Plan, which set out a new service model for the National Health Service, means for the workforce. Through the workforce plan we will ensure we have the right people, in the right places, with the right skills to care for patients when they need it.

Over summer and autumn 2025, we will work with systems and partners to consider future workforce and will publish the 10-Year Workforce Plan later this year.

■ Hospitals: Power Failures

Nick Timothy:

[\[66704\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will bring forward plans for hybrid backup power systems combining (a) diesel generators, (b) battery storage and (c) hydrogen fuel cells in NHS hospitals.

Karin Smyth:

National Health Service trusts are responsible for ensuring adequate back-up power systems in line with national guidelines. This includes conducting risk assessments to determine which systems meet their specific needs. Health Technical Memorandum 06-01 provides technical guidance on the supply and distribution of electrical services.

We continue to support the NHS to increase its energy resilience, including by diversifying its power sources. Some trusts have already implemented Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and we are funding a number of the solar projects via our £100 million collaboration with Great British Energy, which also includes BESS.

■ Hypertension: Kidney Diseases

Dr Simon Opher:

[\[65923\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of people diagnosed with hypertension through the NHS Health Check programme were subsequently tested for chronic kidney disease in each of the last five years.

Ashley Dalton:

Blood pressure is one of seven risk factors for cardiovascular disease assessed in the NHS Health Check, and it is also a risk factor for chronic kidney disease.

Individuals who have a high blood pressure reading during their NHS Health Check are referred to their general practice for further clinical investigation, and subsequent diagnosis of hypertension and management where appropriate.

Data is currently not collected on the number of individuals who, following their NHS Health Check, are diagnosed with hypertension and are subsequently tested for chronic kidney disease.

We are considering how to improve data collection and monitoring of the NHS Health Check following the National Audit Office report.

Dr Simon Opher:

[\[65924\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to increase (a) referral to and (b) uptake of testing for chronic kidney disease among people diagnosed with hypertension through the NHS Health Check programme.

Ashley Dalton:

Individuals who have a high blood pressure reading during their NHS Health Check are referred to their general practice for further clinical investigation, and subsequent diagnosis of hypertension and management where appropriate.

In 2024, NHS England incorporated a new indicator into the CVDPREVENT audit to monitor the measurement of kidney function, a urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio test, in people with hypertension, as recommended in National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.

■ Immunosuppression: Drugs

Richard Foord:

[\[65462\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has made an assessment of the reasons for the price differential between (a) ciclosporin and (b) other generic immunosuppressant drugs sold in UK pharmacies compared to the same drugs available overseas; and if he will take steps to review (i) NHS procurement and (ii) pricing arrangements to ensure better value for money.

Karin Smyth:

The Department has made no assessment of the reasons for the price difference between ciclosporin and other generic immunosuppressant drugs sold in United Kingdom pharmacies compared to other countries.

The UK has well established mechanisms to control the level of spend on branded medicines. The voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing, access, and growth and the statutory scheme for branded medicines, control the growth in sales of branded medicines, and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's evaluations ensure that spend on new medicines represents a clinically and cost-effective use of National Health Service resources.

For generic medicines, the Government's policy is freedom of pricing. Community pharmacies buy the drugs they need to dispense against NHS prescriptions and are reimbursed for these according to the prices and 'rules' as set out in the Drug Tariff. The reimbursement arrangements include an amount of medicines margin in 2025/26, as allowed for as part of Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework funding. The system incentivises pharmacy contractors to source items as cheaply as possible, so they individually get to keep more medicine margin. This leads to competition and downward pressure on selling prices, which in turn leads to lower reimbursement prices and lower costs to the NHS.

■ Infant Mortality: Bereavement Counselling

Liz Jarvis:

[66685]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of mental health support services for bereaved parents following baby loss.

Karin Smyth:

The Government recognises that experiencing a baby loss can be an extremely difficult time and we are determined to make sure all women, babies, and their families receive safe, personalised, and compassionate care, particularly when things go wrong.

As of June 2025, Maternal Mental Health Services are available in all 42 integrated care system areas of England. These services provide care for women with moderate/severe or complex mental health difficulties arising from birth trauma or baby loss.

A record 63,858 women accessed a specialist community perinatal mental health service or maternal mental health services in the 12 months to February 2025. This is a 109% increase from March 2020.

We have developed the National Bereavement Care Pathway in collaboration with the United Kingdom's leading pregnancy and baby loss charity, to reduce the variation in the quality of bereavement care provided by the National Health Service. The pathway covers a range of baby loss circumstances, including miscarriage, stillbirth, termination of pregnancy for medical reasons, neonatal death, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

While the Government has not carried out a formal assessment of mental health support services for bereaved parents following baby loss, we are committed to

transforming and improving mental health care, as set out in our 10-Year Health Plan for England.

■ Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Prescriptions

David Smith:

[\[66781\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of reports of Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease not being eligible for free prescription charges as chronic health conditions.

Karin Smyth:

While the Department has made no assessment, approximately 89% of prescription items are dispensed free of charge in the community in England, and there is a wide range of exemptions from prescription charges already in place for which those with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease may be eligible. Eligibility depends on the patient's age, whether they are in qualifying full-time education, whether they are pregnant or have recently given birth, whether they have a qualifying medical condition, or whether they are in receipt of certain benefits or a war pension.

People on low incomes can apply for help with their health costs through the NHS Low Income Scheme. Prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs) are also available. PPCs allow people to claim as many prescriptions as they need for a set cost, with three-month and 12-month certificates available. The 12-month PPC can be paid for in instalments.

■ Integrated Care Boards: Rural Areas

Edward Morello:

[\[66063\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of merging of integrated care boards on (a) Dorset and (b) other rural areas.

Karin Smyth:

No mergers involving the seven integrated care boards (ICBs) in the South West NHS England footprint have been approved.

The Dorset ICB, the Somerset ICB, and the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB are preparing to 'cluster' by April 2026, and this will see increased joint working across the three ICBs to achieve the running cost reductions for ICBs announced by the Department. Formal approval for the merger of ICB footprints will not be given before a comprehensive assessment of the local circumstances and rationale. Our commitment to coterminous boundaries wherever possible will be at the forefront of our decision-making.

As part of cluster preparation arrangements, every ICB will complete an Equality Impact Assessment, which will consider the footprint population and the impact of the changes to ICB working arrangements.

ICBs and regional leaders assessed potential clustering arrangements using the design criteria.

■ Letrozole

Edward Morello: [\[66833\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that patients prescribed Letrozole are able to access a brand they can tolerate.

Edward Morello: [\[66834\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential impact of not being able to access a consistent brand of Letrozole on patient adherence.

Karin Smyth:

Where a prescriber specifies a specific brand or manufacturer on the prescription, the pharmacy should provide that specific product to the patient. However, obtaining a product from a particular supplier may take the pharmacy longer to source.

Pharmacies are largely private businesses, which provide National Health Services and have their own buying arrangements. Not all manufacturers supply to all wholesalers and not all pharmacies use the same wholesalers. This can mean there may be some specific manufacturer's products that a pharmacy may not easily be able to source.

Where a pharmacy is unable to supply a particular medicine promptly, their professional guidance states that they should talk to the patient to discuss the possible options available to them. This includes checking whether the medicine is available at another pharmacy or offering to contact the patient's prescriber to jointly consider whether another suitable brand or medicine is available.

■ Long Covid: Clinics

Pippa Heylings: [\[65970\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2025 to Question 39995 on Long Covid: Clinics, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the delivery of long covid care by integrated care boards.

Ashley Dalton:

Integrated care boards (ICBs) are responsible for commissioning services for people with long COVID. ICBs are allocated funding by NHS England to meet local need and priorities, and to improve outcomes.

To support clinical leadership in this area, NHS England has worked in partnership with the British Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine to establish the Clinical Post-COVID Society to facilitate the ongoing sharing of best practice, to support people affected by long COVID. Further information about the society can be found at the following link:

<https://www.clinicalpcs.org.uk/>

Earlier this year, NHS England completed a long COVID stocktake, aiming to provide a nationwide overview of service delivery in commissioning and contracting, assessing access, activity, and outcomes. The findings confirmed the widely recognised challenges of significant variation in care delivery across England and a lack of comprehensive activity data.

Executive NHS England board members were updated on the current provision of long COVID services, noting those challenges. Discussions considered service prioritisation and potential COVID Inquiry recommendations.

■ Lung Cancer: Screening

Sarah Edwards:

[65916]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make it his policy for all lung cancer patients to be routinely screened for ROS1 biomarkers.

Ashley Dalton:

The NHS Genomic Medicine Service (GMS) provides genomic testing in the National Health Service. Testing is delivered by the NHS Genomic Laboratory Hubs and directed by the National Genomic Test Directory. The test directory comprises of a full list of clinical indications, with over 200 cancer clinical indications for genomics testing, including ROS1 biomarker testing for non-small cell lung cancer, a common form of lung cancer.

NHS England, supported by the Genomics Clinical Reference Group and genomic test evaluation working groups, holds responsibility for reviewing the test directory on an annual basis following a robust and evidence-based process. Through this process, NHS England will continue to consider the potential costs and benefits of expanding or altering the genomic testing which it commissions, ensuring that this testing is available for all patients for whom it would be of clinical benefit.

The Department is committed to ensuring that all patients, including lung cancer patients, have access to innovative diagnostics tests. In May, NHS England announced the roll out of liquid biopsy testing which is now available for all eligible lung cancer patients, which aims to speed up diagnosis and inform better treatment options for those with lung cancer.

The 10-Year Health Plan, published 3 July, commits to further expanding the GMS and developing a new population health genomics service which will combine genomics, new diagnostics, and predictive analytics with artificial intelligence, to enable early identification and intervention for individuals with cancer. Additionally, further information on how the Department will tackle lung cancer and improve outcomes for patients will be released in the National Cancer Plan, which is due to be published later this year.

■ Maternity Services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust Independent Review

Jess Brown-Fuller:

[\[59212\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress his Department has made on implementing the Immediate and Essential Actions of the Ockenden review, published on 30 March 2022.

Karin Smyth:

All the recommendations made by Donna Ockenden in her review into maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust in 2022 were accepted, including the requests made to the Government, the health system more widely, and the trust. Following publication of the Ockenden review, NHS England wrote to all trusts and systems asking them to deliver the recommendations and report to their public boards.

To support this delivery, NHS England's three-year delivery plan for maternity and neonatal services brought together the immediate and essential actions from the Ockenden review with those from other reports and guidance. The National Health Service's operational planning guidance sets out the expectation that trusts should implement the key actions from the plan. In accordance with the NHS operating framework, it is for integrated care boards to oversee local progress with this. The technical guidance which accompanies the plan sets out how we are monitoring progress at a national level.

The plan is in its final year of delivery, and progress has been made across the four themes to improve outcomes and experiences for women and their babies.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust has seen a significant improvement in overall midwifery staffing levels. The trust has enhanced its senior and specialist midwifery teams to provide additional leadership, expert advice, and support for women and families, as well as the clinical teams. The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust now has in place robust training programmes that equip the maternity workforce with up-to-date skills, training, and development, including in the management of emergency scenarios.

On 23 June 2025, my rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, announced the launch of an independent, national Investigation into NHS maternity and neonatal services to look at the systemic issues behind why so many women, babies and families experience unacceptable care. It will look at up to 10 maternity and neonatal units where there are specific issues, international evidence, adoption of best practice and a system-wide investigation of maternity and neonatal care. There have been several reviews, inquiries and national research into maternity and neonatal care in recent years, including Ockenden. The investigation will bring together lessons from past these reviews and will produce, by December 2025, one clear set of national recommendations to achieve high quality, safe care across maternity and neonatal services, and that women and families are listened to. The investigation will take previous recommendations, including the Immediate and

Essentials actions from Ockenden, into consideration to ensure we are providing clarity to the system and effectively delivering the change needed.

Alongside this, my rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, also announced we would be establishing a National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce, which he would chair. It will use the recommendations from the investigation to develop a national plan to drive improvements across maternity and neonatal care, holding the system to account for delivering the actions and working closely with families to ensure their voices are central to this work.

■ **Maternity Services: Reviews**

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[R] [\[66241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to publish the national maternity and neonatal action plan.

Karin Smyth:

[Holding answer 16 July 2025]: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care recently announced an independent investigation into National Health Service maternity and neonatal services, and the establishment of a National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce.

The investigation will produce, by December 2025, one clear set of national recommendations to achieve high quality, safe care across maternity and neonatal services, and will ensure that women and families are listened to.

The taskforce will then develop a national action plan to drive improvements across maternity and neonatal care. The timing for the publication of the action plan will be announced in due course.

In the meantime, work continues to implement the actions set out in NHS England's Three Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services. My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care also announced some immediate actions to boost accountability and safety as part of the Government's mission to build an NHS fit for the future. This includes measures to hold the system to account, a system to better identify safety concerns, rolling out a programme to all trusts to tackle discrimination and racism, and new best practice standards in maternal mortality.

■ **Maternity Services: Wiltshire**

Sarah Gibson:

[\[66407\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much capital funding her Department has provided for maternity units serving Wiltshire in each of the last five financial years.

Karin Smyth:

Over the 2020/21 to 2024/25 period, £5.9 million of capital funding was invested in maternity services across the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon, and Wiltshire

Integrated Care System. This funding covered a range of schemes, comprising technology, equipment, and maternity service units. The capital schemes will include cyclical equipment replacement and renewal schemes.

As the integrated care board holds unified records covering the whole area of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon, and Wiltshire, we are unable to provide a disaggregated response for the Wiltshire area only.

■ Measles: Vaccination

Charlotte Nichols:

[\[65865\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he plans to take to increase the uptake of measles vaccines.

Ashley Dalton:

The Department is working alongside its partners to increase vaccine uptake across all childhood vaccination programmes, including the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) programme.

In light of a surge in measles cases in the North West, the UK Health Security Agency and the National Health Service are working with local partners to monitor the situation, provide advice, and support local communities to be aware of action they can take to protect themselves, including getting vaccinated.

Building on the MMR coverage gains achieved in 2023/4, NHS England continues to deliver national and regional improvement plans that include activities to strengthen the routine vaccination offer and to address inequalities by supporting MMR catch up vaccination by school age vaccination services in schools and community settings. For example, summer 'catch up' immunisation clinics are being stood in some of the areas with the lowest MMR uptake including Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, and St Helens.

National childhood vaccination communication campaigns are planned in August and September 2025 for children returning to school. This will be a re-launch of the 2024 childhood vaccination campaign aimed at increasing the awareness of childhood vaccinations and encouraging parents to book catch-up appointments.

It is vitally important that everyone takes up the vaccinations they are entitled to, for themselves, their families, and wider society. The MMR vaccine is highly effective, safe, and is the best way to prevent measles.

■ Medical Records

Martin Wrigley:

[\[66355\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what intellectual property rights NHS England retains over (a) data models, (b) ontologies and (c) analytics solutions produced within the Federated Data Platform.

Karin Smyth:

Within the NHS Federated Data Platform (FDP), the National Health Service retains the Intellectual Property of the solutions it funds or develops, including all associated data models, ontologies, including the NHS Canonical data model, products, and analytical solutions.

Under the FDP-Associated Services Agreement between NHS England and Palantir, background Intellectual Property, prior to entering into the agreement, remains the property of the respective party.

■ Mental Health: Children and Young People**Damian Hinds:**[\[66144\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 13 January 2025 to Question 21573 on Mental Health: Children and Young People, whether he plans to publish further updates to those statistics.

Stephen Kinnock:

Although no decisions have yet been made to commission further waves, the Department recognises the importance of the Mental Health of Children and Young People in England Report. We will publish plans in due course.

■ Mental Health: Lancashire**Mr Andrew Snowden:**[\[66332\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help reduce the number of mental health conditions among young people in (a) Fylde constituency and (b) Lancashire.

Stephen Kinnock:

The NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board is responsible for commissioning services to meet the mental health needs of young people in Fylde and across Lancashire.

Nationally, the Government is investing an extra £688 million this year to transform mental health services by hiring more staff, delivering more early interventions, and getting waiting lists down so young people can have the best possible start in life. We will fulfil our commitment to recruit an additional 8,500 staff across child and adult mental health services by the end of this Parliament, and 6,700 of these extra workers have been recruited since July 2024.

We also want to intervene much earlier to support better outcomes for children and young people. That is why the 10-Year Health Plan sets out how we will work with schools and colleges to better identify and meet children's mental health needs by expanding mental health support teams in schools to cover 100% of pupils by 2029/30 and by embedding mental health support in the new Young Futures hubs, to ensure there is no 'wrong front door' for people seeking help. At the end of March 2025, 55% of pupils and learners in Lancashire were covered by a mental health support team.

Additionally, we are continuing to provide top-up funding of £7 million to 24 existing early support hubs, including hubs in Chorley and Blackburn, to expand their services and to take part in an ongoing evaluation of these services in 2025/26. This funding will enable the supported hubs to deliver at least 10,000 additional mental health and wellbeing interventions, so that more children and young people are supported.

■ NHS

Alison Bennett:

[\[66801\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people in (a) his Department and (b) NHS England worked on the 10 year plan.

Karin Smyth:

[Holding answer 16 July 2025]: 66 people from the Department and NHS England were solely employed on the development of the 10-Year Health Plan. In addition, a wide range of people across both organisations have been involved as part of their regular work.

■ NHS: Databases

Martin Wrigley:

[\[66350\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on its data cleaning specification for Palantir; and whether that specification defines how patient data are (a) extracted, (b) transformed and (c) loaded into the federated data platform.

Karin Smyth:

NHS England has not had any discussions with my Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on this matter.

Each local organisation has their own instance of the NHS Federated Data Platform (FDP) for which they are the data controller, and can opt into any of the core products that support delivery of patient care.

Local organisations can connect and share information currently stored in separate systems to support staff to access the information they need in one safe and secure environment, where there is a legal basis to do so.

Data is only ingested into an FDP Tenant following establishment of the legal basis and a specific purpose for usage of that data. Most commonly this is for use in FDP products, for example those which support the management of waiting lists, theatre scheduling, or effective discharge of patients.

Data is extracted, cleaned, enriched, and transformed according to the requirements of each use case or product. The FDP program uses the concept of the NHS Canonical Data Model to ensure that data is treated consistently across FDP Tenants, and this enables the development of consistent, reusable products.

Prior to ingestion from the source systems to the FDP Tenant, the NHS-Privacy Enhancing Technology (NHS-PET) service registers the flow. NHS-PET is a

standalone service located between primary data sources and the FDP-Associated Services (AS) platform, providing a data orchestration and privacy service for FDP-AS data ingress and inter-tenant transfers.

The NHS-PET service creates records of the types and uses of data which are used in every instance of NHS FDP. If the data is to be used for secondary uses, not direct care, the NHS-PET service can treat personal data to remove identifiers utilising techniques such as anonymisation, masking, generalisation, and pseudonymisation. Privacy treated data is modelled by FDP-AS and is then made available for specific purposes.

Martin Wrigley:

[66354]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential risks of cross-contamination risk when data from multiple NHS trusts are ingested into a single cloud environment.

Karin Smyth:

In order to assess the risk and impact to data privacy, all Federated Data Platform (FDP) installations are required to complete a Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA). An overarching DPIA for the FDP was also undertaken.

Each FDP Tenant is a logically separated instance of the Foundry Platform. Each tenant has separate administrators, and independent control of all data ingress and egress. User access is controlled by a combination of Role Based Access Controls and Purpose Based Access Controls to ensure that access to data is only available to users with a documented and auditable reason for access.

All changes to the product or platform go through a careful process of development, testing, quality assurance, and change management before they are released. This helps to prevent errors and problems. The FDP has several measures in place to keep data safe. These include:

- strong network security, namely firewalls and intrusion detection systems that monitor all network traffic to and from the platform, to block unauthorised access and detect suspicious activity;
- data encryption of all data stored on the platform, both when transferred, or in transit, and when stored on servers;
- purpose based access, as users only have access to the data they need to do their jobs. This helps to minimise the risk of unauthorised access to sensitive information;
- detailed logging and monitoring, as all user activity on the platform is logged and monitored for suspicious activity. This helps to identify potential security breaches quickly and maintains a full audit trail. Security logs are encrypted and stored securely;
- regular security testing, with the platform undergoing regular penetration testing and vulnerability scanning to identify and fix any weaknesses in its security;

- development lifecycle, with all changes to the product or platform going through a careful process of development, testing, quality assurance, and change management before they are released. This helps to prevent errors and problems; and
- monitoring, as live services teams constantly monitor the product or platform 24 hours a day, seven days a week to quickly identify and fix any issues that may arise.

■ NHS: Mental Health

James Naish:

[66694]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans to extend funding for the NHS Practitioner Health programme beyond March 2026.

Karin Smyth:

Looking after the mental health of our hardworking National Health Service staff is a priority for the Government.

The NHS Practitioner Health programme is funded until March 2026, and more recently the 10-Year Health Plan committed to rolling out Staff Treatment Hubs. These hubs will provide a high-quality occupational health service for all NHS staff, which includes support for mental health issues.

■ NHS: Staff

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[R] [66245]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to publish the revised NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

Karin Smyth:

[Holding answer 16 July 2025]: We will publish our 10 Year Workforce Plan by the end of this year. The approach set out in our 10-Year Health plan means we will need a very different kind of workforce strategy. Instead of asking ‘how many staff do we need to maintain our current care model over the next 10 years?’, our new 10 Year Workforce Plan will ask ‘given our reform plan, what workforce do we need, what should they do, where should they be deployed, and what skills should they have?’

James Naish:

[66697]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to NHS England's website entitled Health and wellbeing programmes, what steps he is taking to improve (a) rest areas and (b) catering facilities for NHS staff.

Karin Smyth:

The NHS Health and Wellbeing Framework highlights the importance of getting the basics right, such as providing access to good quality rest areas, food, and drink options. Through the Independent Review of NHS Hospital Food, officials have had, and continue to have, discussions in relation to improving catering for National Health Service staff in NHS hospital settings. The NHS Food and Drink Standards also

contains detailed information for catering managers about sourcing and serving high quality, nutritious food to patients and staff.

As set out in the 10-Year Health Plan, we will work with the Social Partnership Forum to introduce a new set of staff standards for modern employment, covering issues such as access to healthy meals and support to work healthily and flexibly.

The New Hospital Programme will mandate that staff welfare spaces must occupy at least 6% to 7% of the total net internal area footprint for schemes that are fully compliant with the new standardised designs. This 6% to 7% minimum allocation will continue to be protected and maintained through the full life cycle of the building.

Rachel Gilmour:

[\[66785\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the forthcoming (a) NHS Long Term Workforce Plan and (b) National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme will include policies on staffing in rural areas.

Mr Angus MacDonald:

[\[66887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the forthcoming (a) NHS Long Term Workforce Plan and (b) National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme will include policies on staffing in rural areas.

Karin Smyth:

The 10 Year Workforce Plan will be published later this year. We will work with partners to make sure we have the right people, in the right places, with the right skills, to ensure the National Health Service has access to the workforce it needs to treat those that require care, treatment, and diagnosis across all our communities, including remote, rural, and coastal communities.

The National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme was launched on 3 July 2025, to support systems across the country to test new ways of working, share learning, and scale what works. We expect neighbourhood teams and services to be designed in a way that reflects the specific needs of local populations. While we will be clear on the outcomes we expect, we will give significant licence to tailor the approach to local need. While the focus on personalised, coordinated care will be consistent, that will mean the service will look different in rural communities, coastal towns, or deprived inner cities.

■ Nurses

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[\[65328\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of prioritising UK trained nurses for nursing posts in the NHS.

Karin Smyth:

As set out in the recently published 10-Year Health Plan, the Government is committed to reorienting the focus of National Health Service recruitment away from its dependency on international recruitment, and towards its own communities, to

ensure sustainability in an era of global healthcare workforce shortages. It is our ambition to reduce international recruitment to less than 10% by 2035.

This includes a commitment to developing homegrown nursing talent, helping to bring economic growth to areas across the nation which are most in need. The 10 Year Workforce Plan will outline strategies for improving retention, productivity, training, and reducing attrition, ultimately enhancing conditions for all staff while gradually reducing reliance on international recruitment, without diminishing the value of their contributions.

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[\[65329\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many newly qualified nurses there have been in 2025.

Karin Smyth:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council publishes information on the number of United Kingdom trained nurses joining their register for the first time, who are resident in England.

The latest data available, from the Nursing and Midwifery Council March 2025 Annual Data Report, shows that 29,210 nurses joined the register in England for the first time, 19,670 of which obtained their nursing qualification in the UK.

■ Palliative Care: Rural Areas

Rachel Gilmour:

[\[66786\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure the (a) sustainable funding and (b) fair commissioning of (i) hospice and (ii) palliative care services take into account the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas.

Mr Angus MacDonald:

[\[66886\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to provide sustainable (a) funding and (b) commissioning of (i) hospice and (ii) palliative care services in rural areas.

Stephen Kinnock:

Palliative care services are included in the list of services an integrated care board (ICB) must commission. To support ICBs in this duty, NHS England has published statutory guidance and service specifications. The statutory guidance states that ICBs must work to ensure that there is sufficient provision of care services to meet the needs of their local populations, which can include hospice services available within the ICB catchment. The statutory guidance also outlines areas for consideration when commissioning, including improving equity of access and reducing inequity in outcomes and experiences.

Whilst the majority of palliative and end of life care is provided by National Health Service staff and services, we recognise the vital part that voluntary sector

organisations, including hospices, also play in providing support to people at the end of life and their loved ones.

Most hospices are charitable, independent organisations which receive some statutory funding for providing NHS services. The amount of funding each charitable hospice receives varies both within and between ICB areas. This will vary depending on demand in that ICB area but will also be dependent on the totality and type of palliative and end of life care provision from both NHS and non-NHS services, including charitable hospices, within each ICB area.

The Government and the NHS will closely monitor the shift towards the strategic commissioning of palliative and end of life care services to ensure that the future state of services reduces variation in access and quality, although some variation may be appropriate to reflect both innovation and the needs of local populations.

The Department is currently exploring how to improve the access, quality, and sustainability of all-age palliative and end of life care in line with the 10-Year Health Plan. Officials will present further proposals to ministers over the coming months, outlining how to operationalise the required shifts in palliative care and end of life care to enable the shift from hospital to community, including as part of neighbourhood health teams.

■ **Pancreatic Cancer: Nurses**

Mr Andrew Snowden:

[\[66719\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many pancreatic cancer specialist nurses are employed in the NHS in England.

Karin Smyth:

The Department does not hold information on the number of full time equivalent pancreatic cancer specialist nurses employed in the National Health Service in England.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council does not require any specific post-registration education programme to be undertaken in order for a registered nurse to become a pancreatic cancer specialist nurse. Employers develop specialist roles to meet community and service need locally.

■ **Perinatal Mortality**

Carla Lockhart:

[\[65335\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many additional (a) neonatal, (b) stillbirth and (c) maternal deaths have occurred since 2018 compared to the Government's target to halve 2010 rates by 2025; and what steps he is taking to meet these targets.

Karin Smyth:

While there has been some good progress in reducing the rates of stillbirths and neonatal death, the most recent data indicates that we are not on track to meet the Maternity Safety Ambition, set under the previous administration.

We do not hold analysis on the specific ask, but we track progress against the ambition trajectory using various data sources, which are publicly available, including data from the Office for National Statistics and from Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK. In 2015, the rate of neonatal death and stillbirths was 1.6 per 1,000 live births and 4.4 per 1,000 births respectively. In the period 2014 to 2016, the rate of maternal death was 9.8 per 100,000 maternities. The most recent data shows that: in 2023 the rate of neonatal death was 1.4 per 1,000 live births; in 2024 the rate of stillbirths was 3.8 per 1,000 births; and in the period between 2021 and 2023 the maternal mortality rate was 12.7 per 100,000 maternities.

We are committed to ensuring that all women and babies receive the high-quality care that they deserve. This is why my Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care recently announced an independent investigation into National Health Service maternity and neonatal services to understand the systemic issues behind why so many women, babies, and families experience unacceptable care. The Government is also establishing a National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce, chaired by my Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and to be made up of a panel of experts and family, charity, and staff representatives, in order to identify the actions needed to improve care.

But action cannot wait. We are also taking steps to improve care now. We have announced a package of immediate actions to boost accountability and safety. This includes a new system to better identify safety concerns to support rapid action and developing best practice standards to reduce maternal mortality.

■ Pregnancy: Sodium Valproate**Sir Gavin Williamson:****[65755]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what evidence (a) his Department and (b) the MHRA have on the numbers of people harmed by Sodium Valproate in pregnancy.

Ashley Dalton:

Everyone who has been harmed from sodium valproate has our deepest sympathies. The Department does not collect information about the numbers of people harmed by sodium valproate in pregnancy.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has received 1,169 United Kingdom spontaneous suspected adverse drug reaction reports for sodium valproate related to use during pregnancy, from the initial licensing of the medicine up to 24 June 2025. The majority of reports relate to birth defects or developmental delays in the child.

These are well documented risks for women taking sodium valproate during pregnancy, and as such sodium valproate must not be prescribed to women under the age of 55 years old who are able to have children, unless two specialists independently consider and document that there is no other effective or tolerated treatment, and the patient fulfils the conditions of a Pregnancy Prevention Programme.

■ Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Vaccination

Shivani Raja:

[\[65954\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of instances of pre-term infants both (a) not receiving the maternal vaccination programme for respiratory syncytial virus and (b) not being eligible for palivizumab.

Ashley Dalton:

The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme to protect newborn infants, via maternal vaccination, was introduced in England in September 2024, in line with independent expert advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The National Health Service has also offered high-risk eligible infants a monoclonal antibody called palivizumab over the RSV season since 2010, and continues to do so. Palivizumab is typically reserved for premature infants with specific major underlying medical conditions.

The JCVI is aware that very premature babies are unlikely to benefit from maternal vaccination. In February 2023, the JCVI advised that existing infant risk groups eligible for RSV monoclonal antibody immunisation should preferentially be protected with nirsevimab over palivizumab. In October 2024, the committee supported work being taken forward for a monoclonal antibody programme to protect all very/extremely premature infants, ideally from 2025/26. We are exploring all options to ensure there is effective protection against severe RSV illness for all very premature infants.

■ Sodium Valproate: Side Effects

Sir Gavin Williamson:

[\[65754\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what data his Department holds on the number of people affected by Valproate.

Ashley Dalton:

Everyone who has been harmed from sodium valproate has our deepest sympathies.

The National Disease Registration Service in NHS England, which collects and quality assures data about people with congenital anomalies and rare diseases across the whole of England, is assessing the feasibility and reliability of better ascertainment of foetal sodium valproate syndrome by linking data in the congenital anomaly register to primary care prescription data. Further information on the National Disease Registration Service is available at the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs>

The information requested is not held centrally.

■ Spinal Injuries: Databases

Laura Kyrke-Smith: **[66480]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national spinal cord injury database.

Laura Kyrke-Smith: **[66481]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of providing access to the national spinal cord injury database to (a) charities and (b) other stakeholders.

Stephen Kinnock:

The effectiveness of the National Spinal Cord Injury Database (NSCID) is kept under review and is subject to small incremental improvements to reflect changes to spinal cord injury services, and to maintain compliance with legislation. NHS England has been working with spinal cord injury charities to provide them with data within the parameters of information governance, UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data security, and data protection legislation, and data sharing agreements are in place.

Plans to enable patients to connect with charities are in development, which will require working in close collaboration with clinicians who will discuss the option of connecting the patient with a charity at the appropriate moment in their treatment pathway. NHS England has processes in place which enable stakeholders to request access to data held in the NSCID. These processes are compliant with existing information governance, UK GDPR, data protection, and data security legislation and policies. Each request for access to data is assessed in accordance with legislation and accompanying policies.

■ Temporomandibular Disorder: Diagnosis and Medical Treatments

Edward Morello: **[66826]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to improve (a) diagnosis and (b) treatment pathways for people with temporomandibular joint disorder.

Edward Morello: **[66827]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of training for (a) general practitioners and (b) dentists for (i) recognising and (ii) managing temporomandibular joint disorder.

Edward Morello: **[66828]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department is taking steps to assess the (a) affordability and (b) accessibility of transferring people

unable to access timely care on the NHS to private sector providers for temporomandibular joint disorder.

Stephen Kinnock:

Temporomandibular joint disorder (TMJD) treatment is considered as planned non-emergency care. The NHS.UK website advises that it is not usually serious and generally gets better without treatment. Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/temporomandibular-disorder-tmd/>

Treatment options for TMJD are:

- conservative treatments such as pain relief, physiotherapy, bite guards, and self-management advice. These are usually provided through primary care and would be considered as non-urgent but necessary care;
- specialist referral, if conservative treatment does not help, specifically referral to oral maxillofacial surgery or a specialist pain clinic may occur. These referrals are part of the routine National Health Service pathways but are prioritised on clinical need; and
- surgical treatments in severe cases, which are scheduled as planned elective procedures. In NHS terms this falls under elective care, but it is not optional in a cosmetic sense, as it is clinically indicated.

NHS England Getting It Right First Time and the Royal College of Surgeons' Faculty of Dental Surgery have produced guidance to better manage the condition, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/-/media/FDS/Comprehensive-guideline-Management-of-painful-Temporomandibular-disorder-in-adults-March-2024.pdf>

No assessment has been made on the adequacy of the training for general practitioners and dentists on recognising and managing TMJD. The standard of training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council and General Dental Council, which are independent statutory bodies.

■ **Tourette's Syndrome: Health Services**

Steve Darling:

[61550]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to improve the quality of training on (a) Tourette's syndrome and (b) other tic disorders for service providers nationally.

Steve Darling:

[61551]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to increase the number of specialist practitioners (a) researching and (b) treating Tourette's Syndrome.

Stephen Kinnock:

We will publish a new workforce plan to deliver the transformed health service we will build over the next decade, and to ensure the National Health Service has the right people, in the right places, with the right skills to deliver the care patients need when they need it. NHS England's Neuroscience Transformation Programme is supporting integrated care boards to deliver the right service, at the right time for all neurology patients, including providing care closer to home.

NHS England's Getting It Right First Time Programme for Neurology and RightCare Toolkits aim to improve care for patients with neurological conditions by reducing variation.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced a range of guidance on the diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions for use by healthcare professionals and commissioners. NICE guidance ensures that patients are cared for in a consistently evidence-based way.

HOME OFFICE**■ Animals in Science Regulation Unit: Inspections****Joe Robertson:**[\[67240\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inspectors are in post in the Animals in Science Regulation Unit.

Joe Robertson:[\[67241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement on 14 October 2024, HCWS127, what progress she has made on reforming the Animals in Science Regulator to ensure that licence holders are compliant with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Dan Jarvis:

The Home Office is in the final stages of delivering a comprehensive programme of regulatory reform to strengthen the Animals in Science Regulation Unit and ensure robust compliance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA). The reforms are designed to enhance protections for animals used in science whilst supporting a high performing, transparent regulatory environment.

As part of this programme the number of Inspectors is increasing from 17 at the end of 2023, to 22 by end of 2025. This expansion will improve the Regulator's capability to provide oversight, conduct inspections and support licence holders in meeting their statutory obligations.

The reform programme includes a number of key elements: Enhanced governance through the establishment of a new governance board that will advise the Department on the Regulator's performance; Specialist roles in the Regulator to focus on data, regulatory performance and quality monitoring to improve delivery of protections to animals; Improved Guidance to provide greater clarity and further revisions are in

progress; and, Audit reform where a revised approach for the programme of audits of licensed establishments is under consideration which will allow the Regulator to better ensure compliance by effectively targeting resource in alignment with its objectives.

These reforms reflect the Government's strong commitment to continuous improvement in regulation and assuring that the UK remains a global leader in science and innovation.

■ Antisocial Behaviour

Wendy Morton:

[\[65786\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of community policing in tackling antisocial behaviour linked to waste crime.

Dame Diana Johnson:

Tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a top priority for this Government and a key part of our Safer Streets Mission.

As a result of our Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, every police force in England and Wales now has a dedicated lead officer for ASB, who will work with communities to develop a local ASB action plan, which could include waste crime such as fly tipping

As part of the Neighbourhood Policing Grant, £200 million has been allocated to forces for 2025/26 to support the Government's commitment to deliver additional policing personnel into neighbourhood policing. West Midlands Police has been allocated £12,210,903 and will deliver an increase of 289 police officers and 20 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) by 31 March 2026.

These officers will be out patrolling in our town centres and communities, working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour, including waste crime and fly-tipping, and making our neighbourhoods safer and more welcoming.

■ Asylum: Applications

Euan Stainbank:

[\[65979\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to improve asylum claim processing times.

Dame Angela Eagle:

The Home Office continues to invest in a programme of transformation and business improvement, including innovative methods to speed up asylum decision making and improve the quality and consistency of our work.

The latest quarter saw the second highest three-month period for people receiving initial decisions since comparable records began in 2002, and more than double (+116%) those in the three months before the election (April to June 2024).

■ Asylum: Housing

David Simmonds: [65419]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding her Department plans to provide to local authorities to (a) house and (b) build housing for (i) asylum seekers and (ii) refugees in each financial year to 2029-30.

Dame Angela Eagle:

The Home Office publishes information on asylum expenditure in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts at [Home Office annual reports and accounts - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115441/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2023-24.pdf).

Shivani Raja: [65956]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what definition her Department uses for (a) occupancy levels and (b) property capacity in the management of asylum accommodation contracts.

Shivani Raja: [65958]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will publish the (a) occupancy level and (b) property capacity data discussed at (i) monthly contract management meetings and (ii) quarterly boards under the asylum accommodation and support services contracts.

Shivani Raja: [65959]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2025 to Question 32327 on Asylum: Hotels and the Answer of 8 July 2025 to Question 63118 on Asylum: Housing, whether her Department retains data on (a) occupancy levels and (b) property capacity in relation to asylum accommodation.

Dame Angela Eagle:

Occupancy and Capacity are not terms defined within asylum accommodation contracts. Data on the number of individuals occupying asylum accommodation is published in the quarterly migration statistics.

Shivani Raja: [65957]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has used (a) occupancy level and (b) property capacity data to assess the cost-effectiveness of asylum accommodation contracts in the last 12 months.

Dame Angela Eagle:

I refer the Hon Member to the answer I gave her on 08 July 2025 to Question 63118.

■ Asylum: Radicalism

Rupert Lowe: [66015]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been flagged for links to (a) extremist and (b) Islamist networks since 2018.

Dan Jarvis:

It is the longstanding policy of successive UK Governments that we do not comment on operational intelligence or security matters.

■ Counter-terrorism

Rupert Lowe:

[66007]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many referrals to Prevent related to Islamist ideology have been made in the last three years.

Dan Jarvis:

Information about Prevent referrals and Channel cases can be found on GOV.UK [Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme statistics - GOV.UK](#).

Official statistics on individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent programme for year ending 31 March 2025 will be published later this year.

■ Counter-Terrorism

Rupert Lowe:

[66009]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) monitor and (b) help prevent radicalisation in (i) mosques, (ii) Islamic schools and (iii) community centres.

Dan Jarvis:

The Prevent duty was introduced through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and requires a range of public sector bodies working in local communities to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism as part of their day-to-day work.

The Prevent programme is run locally by experts who understand the risks and issues in their area, and how best to support their communities including working with faith institutions, education and community settings. These experts include local authorities, the Police, charities and community organisations.

In addition, the programme provides training for educators, healthcare professionals and other frontline staff to help them identify and support those susceptible to radicalisation. Prevent also works closely with local partners, policing, and other government departments to disrupt those groups that radicalise others, both online and in communities.

■ Counter-terrorism: Prosecutions

Rupert Lowe:

[66020]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Prevent cases resulted in prosecutions for Islamist-related offences during the past year.

Dan Jarvis:

Prevent seeks to intervene early and provide support to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent is not an investigative tool or a criminal sanction, and prosecution is not the intended outcome.

Counter-terrorism: Radicalism**Rupert Lowe:**[\[66010\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support she is providing to local authorities to help them counter radicalisation in areas identified as high risk for Islamist extremism.

Dan Jarvis:

All Local Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales receive dedicated support from the Home Office to deliver the Prevent duty effectively and in proportion to the risk and threat.

Whilst Prevent seeks to tackle the threat from a range of ideologies, we expect all local authorities facing a high risk from Islamist extremism to identify this in their risk assessments and delivery plans, working closely with Counter-Terrorism Police.

Currently, the 28 highest threat areas in England and Wales receive Home Office Prevent funding to help them to go above and beyond the requirements of the Prevent duty. This funding supports the provision of dedicated Prevent posts in these local authorities. Some of these local authorities also receive additional funding to support regional working and share their Prevent expertise with other neighbouring local authorities.

All local authorities have access to the Preventing Radicalisation Fund. This supports the delivery of targeted Prevent projects, that aim to identify and mitigate local radicalisation risks, including the risk from Islamist extremism.

Hamas: Proscribed Organisations**Mr Andrew Snowden:**[\[66714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much was the cost to the public purse of assessing Hamas' appeal against proscription.

Dan Jarvis:

No assessment of those costs has yet been carried out.

Missing Persons: Children**Warinder Juss:**[\[66039\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help reduce the number of missing children in the West Midlands; and what steps she is taking to help reduce the number of Black and Asian missing children.

Jess Phillips:

The Missing Persons Authorised Professional Practice, issued by the College of Policing, sets out best practice guidance for all missing person investigations, including missing children.

The Government recognises the need for an effective multi-agency response to missing person investigations. To this end, the Home Office and Department for Education have been supporting the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) lead for Missing Persons in the development of a 'Missing Children from Care' framework, which has been piloted in West Yorkshire. This framework outlines good practice that can be adopted by local areas when setting up their own multi-agency protocols for the strategic and operational response to a missing incident, with an aim to ensure that the appropriate safeguarding partner responds in the best interest of the missing person.

The Home Office has also funded the NPCC for Missing Persons to conduct research to explore disproportionality and discrimination in police missing persons investigations; comparing how risk is categorised in different ethnic groups. The final report is nearing completion.

■ Newspaper Press: Ownership**Max Wilkinson:**[\[65931\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of foreign (a) company and (b) government ownership of British media on national security.

Max Wilkinson:[\[66318\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of foreign governments investing in UK media on national security.

Dan Jarvis:

As a matter of long-standing policy, we do not comment on the detail of security and intelligence issues.

More generally, the Government is committed to a pluralistic media landscape, where citizens are able to access information from a range of sources in order to form opinions. The Department for Culture, Media, and Sport have provided an assessment on the potential impact of foreign states investing in UK Newspapers, which can be found in the Written Statement Ministerial of 15 May 2025 - Official Report Vol 767 Col 17WS.

■ Passports: Disqualification

Rupert Lowe: [\[66008\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many passports have been cancelled due to UK citizens travelling abroad to join Islamist terrorist groups in the last five years.

Dan Jarvis:

It is the longstanding policy of successive UK governments that we do not comment on operational intelligence or security matters , including the specific details of individuals who have and their passports revoked.

■ Proscribed Organisations

Dan Aldridge: [\[66025\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent the sale or promotion of merchandise linked to (a) the Wagner Group and (b) other proscribed terrorist organisations on (i) UK-based and (ii) UK-accessible websites; and what enforcement action is being taken against companies found to be doing so.

Dan Jarvis:

It is a matter for the operationally independent police and Crown Prosecution Service to determine if a crime has been committed under Sections 11-13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT), and what action should be taken in response.

Under the Online Safety Act, tech companies are accountable to Ofcom, an independent regulator, to keep their users safe, and they need to remove and limit the spread of illegal content, including terrorist material. Tech companies can be held liable for unlawful terrorism-related content on their services once they have knowledge of it. It is on this basis that the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit in the Metropolitan Police refers terrorism content to companies for removal.

■ Radicalism

Rupert Lowe: [\[66005\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many known Islamic extremists reside in the UK.

Rupert Lowe: [\[66006\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are under surveillance by counter-terrorism police for suspected links to Islamist extremism.

Dan Jarvis:

As a matter of long-standing policy, we do not comment on the detail of security and intelligence matters. However, we continuously assess potential threats to the UK and, where necessary, deploy the full range of tools available to mitigate them.

■ Radicalism: Young People

Rupert Lowe:

[\[66019\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help tackle online Islamist (a) radicalisation and (b) propaganda targeting young people.

Dan Jarvis:

I refer the Hon Member to the answer I gave on 9 July to Question 64852.

■ Slavery: Supply Chains

Lee Anderson:

[\[66280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will consider lowering the annual turnover criteria in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for which companies have to produce an annual report on steps taken to prevent modern slavery in (a) operations and (b) supply chains.

Jess Phillips:

The Home Office is currently undertaking a statutory Post-Implementation Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Transparency in Supply Chains) Regulations to assess whether the £36 million total turnover threshold and the definition of total turnover are still appropriate. The conclusion of this review will be published in the Autumn.

■ Terrorism

Neil Coyle:

[\[66183\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ask the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation to publish guidance on what constitutes terrorism in the event of an attack by a hostile state.

Dan Jarvis:

To declare an attack as a terrorist incident is an operationally independent decision for the Police, taken in line with the definition of terrorism as set out in Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

■ Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures

Rupert Lowe:

[\[66016\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of people subject to Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures entered the UK as asylum seekers or refugees.

Dame Angela Eagle:

The statutory reporting requirements associated with the use of TPIM measures are set out in Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011.

■ Terrorism: Foreign Nationals

Rupert Lowe: [\[66018\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether foreign nationals convicted of Islamist extremist offences are automatically considered for deportation.

Dan Jarvis:

Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity.

■ Undocumented Migrants: Lincolnshire

Sir John Hayes: [\[65207\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the services provided to irregular migrants by (a) South Holland District Council (b) South Kesteven District Council and (c) Lincolnshire County Council in the last two years.

Dame Angela Eagle:

The requested data is not held by the Home Office.

■ Visas: National Security

Rupert Lowe: [\[66022\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of visa applications were rejected due to national security concerns related to Islamist extremism in each of the last ten years.

Rupert Lowe: [\[66369\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visa applications were rejected on national security grounds in the last five years, broken down by country of origin.

Dame Angela Eagle:

I refer the Hon Member to the answer he was given on 15 May to Question 51200.

HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**■ Allotments: Sales**

Kevin Hollinrake: [\[66203\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many approvals for the disposal of allotments she has made under section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925 since 4 July 2024; and what the (a) location and (b) reference number of each disposal is.

Alex Norris:

Since 4 July 2024, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government has issued 8 approvals for the disposal of allotments under the Allotments Act 1925. See the available data on locations and LPA reference numbers below:

LOCATION / ADDRESS LINE	TOWN	COUNTY	LPA APPLICATION REFERENCE	LPA NAME
Land at Spaxton Allotments, Spaxton	Bridgwater	Somerset	G3300	Somerset County Council
Land at Wallingford Road Allotments, Wallingford Road	Cholsey	Oxfordshire	N/A	South Oxfordshire District Council
Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council, Stapleton Garden Allotments	Borehamwood	Hertfordshire	Stapleton Gardens Allotments	Hertsmere Borough Council
Kingsway Allotments	Ashfield	Nottinghamshire	N/A	Ashfield District Council
Ravenscroft Allotments, Browns Lane Storrington	Horsham	West Sussex	n/a	West Sussex County Council
Longlands (Oxcroft) Oxcroft Lane	Old Bolsover	Derbyshire	N/A	Bolsover District Council
Longlands Allotment, Off Longlands	Old Bolsover	Derbyshire	N/A	Bolsover District Council
Churchfield Allotment Site	Wye	Kent	Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council	Ashford Borough Council

■ Community Assets

Dr Roz Savage: [\[66084\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether statutory guidance on Community Right to Buy provisions in the English Devolution Bill will recognise environmental impact when determining the value of community assets.

Alex Norris:

The government recognises the vital role of community spaces and wants to see them thriving again. Community Right to Buy will empower local people to bring community spaces back into community ownership.

These provisions were introduced on 10 July in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. Subject to parliamentary passage, statutory guidance will be introduced in due course.

■ Construction: Materials

Dr Scott Arthur: [\[66399\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to help ensure that innovative UK building products are approved for use in a timely manner.

Alex Norris:

The Construction Products Green Paper, published earlier this year, set out a range of potential measures for reform. This included proposals which seek to encourage the adoption of new technologies and methodologies that promote safety and sustainability in construction, simultaneously facilitating growth. We also sought views through the green paper on ways to support and encourage innovation in the built environment by ensuring that the safety and regulation of emerging technologies is robust enough to assure a safer future for the built environment. We also consider that there is a need for greater public sector testing and research capacity to support regulatory activity and research safety issues.

We are now analysing responses and will set out the government's initial response, and our next steps for long term reform.

More broadly, all building works need to meet the functional requirements of the Building Regulations 2010 regardless of the products or methods used. The functional requirements are product agnostic, allowing designers the freedom to innovate and design new ways to comply.

■ Council Tax

Kevin Hollinrake: [\[65806\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to page 10, footnote 2 of the publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, what the estimated averages in council tax are for all local authorities in each year from 2026-27.

Jim McMahon:

The Fair Funding Review 2.0 consultation is open from 20th June – 15th August. We are seeking views on the government's proposed approach to determining new funding allocations for local authorities and fire and rescue authorities, building on the local authority funding reform: objectives and principles consultation.

The estimated averages in council tax across the multi-year Settlement reflect the government's intention to maintain the 3% core council tax referendum principle and a 2% principle for the adult social care precept, as set out in the Spending Review. These principles are in line with the previous government's policy and OBR forecasts. The Department will publish updated estimates as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) 2026-27, including the specific core spending power figures for each local authority.

Kevin Hollinrake:[\[66199\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 6.2.5 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, whether the £2,000 Band D figure includes (a) police precepts, (b) parish precepts, (c) social care precepts, (d) Greater London Authority precept, (e) combined authority mayor precepts and (f) fire precepts.

Kevin Hollinrake:[\[66201\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 6.2.5 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, how the £2,000 Band D figure is split in two-tier areas where districts and counties set different council tax precepts.

Jim McMahon:

As set out in paragraph 6.2.5 of the Fair Funding Review 2.0, the government is proposing to set the notional Council Tax level at the average Band D level of Council Tax in England for authorities in scope of these reforms (circa £2000 in 2026-27). This includes the social care precept and the fire precept (including the fire element of mayoral precepts), but does not include police or parish precepts.

For each multi-tier area, the government is proposing to apply a uniform split to the measure of Council Tax in the resources adjustment based on the average split for all multi tier areas in England.

■ Council Tax: Tax Yields**Kevin Hollinrake:**[\[66190\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2025 to Question 60129 on Local Government Finance, what the assumed level of council tax receipts in England is in each of those years set out in Table 5.17.

Kevin Hollinrake:[\[66197\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 9.4.8 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, what estimate she has made of the level of council tax receipts in England in each year of the multi-year settlement.

Jim McMahon:

It is for individual councils to set their own level of council tax. The Spending Review assumed a 3% core referendum principle and a 2% adult social care precept over the period, in line with OBR forecasts. The final set of referendum principles will be set out each year as part of the local government final settlement each year, subject the approval of the House of Commons, in the usual way.

■ Electoral Register

Claire Hazelgrove:[\[66446\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of discrepancies between voter identification documents and electoral register entries caused by (a) failure to update identification documents of a change of surname following marriage (b) other named-related reasons on trends in the level of voter participation; and what steps her Department is taking to communicate the need for identification documents to match the electoral register for future elections.

Rushanara Ali:

As set out in the Elections Act 2022, where there is a discrepancy between the name shown on an elector's identification document and how their name is recorded on the electoral register, that elector may still use that document if they are able to explain the discrepancy to the satisfaction of the presiding officer, and may provide further evidence (e.g. a marriage certificate) when doing so

This information is set out on poll cards and is displayed in polling stations.

No assessment has been made on the potential impacts that such discrepancies might have on levels of voter participation.

■ Fire and Rescue Services: Mental Health Services

Dr Al Pinkerton:[\[66431\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the support available to fire and rescue services who attend traumatic callouts in Surrey Heath constituency.

Danny Beales:[\[66477\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of (a) support available to fire and rescue staff who attend traumatic incidents and (b) suicide prevention training provided to fire and rescue staff.

Alex Norris:

The health and wellbeing of firefighters is of the utmost importance. The government recognises the risks that firefighters face and is grateful to them for their bravery. Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) are ultimately responsible for the health and wellbeing of firefighters and the government-issued National Framework directs that all Fire and Rescue Authorities should have a people strategy which sets out the mental and physical health and wellbeing support available to firefighters.

National organisations such as The Fire Fighters Charity and Mind also offer valuable support to individuals and services. Their resources can assist Fire and Rescue Authorities in developing local approaches to managing mental health risks and promoting the wellbeing of their workforce.

The health and wellbeing support provided by Fire and Rescue services is considered by the fire inspectorate (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services) in the course of their work.

Housing Stock**Kevin Hollinrake:**[\[65804\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 9.4.7 of the publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, what the assumed net growth is in the number of dwellings in each year of the multi-year settlement.

Jim McMahon:

As part of the Fair Funding Review 2.0, the government is inviting views and evidence on projecting Council Tax base growth in the context of supporting the government's objective to build 1.5 million new homes.

There are several options for how we could project Council Tax base growth, two of which are outlined in paragraph 9.4.8 of the publication.

The consultation is open until 15th August. We will publish our response in the autumn, followed by the provisional multi-year Settlement.

Housing: Construction**Kevin Hollinrake:**[\[66202\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Written Statement of 20 June 2025 on Fair Funding Review 2.0 and Modernising and Improving the Administration of Council Tax, HCWS724, how much was allocated to the New Homes Bonus including legacy payments by tier of local government in England in 2024-25.

Jim McMahon:

New Homes Bonus allocations are published online, and the amounts awarded in 2024-25 can be found [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) [here](#). The then government ended new legacy payments in 2020-21, with final payments made in 2022-23.

The totals allocated by tier in 2024-25 are as follows:

AUTHORITY TYPE	TOTAL
Shire District	£101,455,702
London Borough	£50,146,660
Metropolitan District	£35,078,441
Unitary Authority	£78,760,516
Shire Counties	£25,363,926

■ Independent Commission on Community & Cohesion

Luke Taylor: [\[65975\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding has been allocated to the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion since it was established.

Luke Taylor: [\[65976\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many meetings the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion have had since it was established.

Luke Taylor: [\[65977\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when recommendations are expected to be published by the Independent Commission for Community and Inclusion.

Alex Norris:

The Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion is not affiliated with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. As such, the department has not allocated any funding to the commission and does not hold information on its timelines.

■ Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

Sarah Edwards: [\[65918\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

Jim McMahon:

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman underwent an independent peer review in 2023-24 facilitated by the International Ombudsman Institute. The

review and the LGSCO's response to its recommendations can be found on the [LGSCO's](#) website.

■ Local Government Finance

Kevin Hollinrake:

[66198]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 9.3.3 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities at the 0% funding floor.

Jim McMahon:

The vast majority of upper-tier authorities will see their income increase in real terms over the next three years.

For those councils who would see their funding fall as a result of these changes, our intention to protect the vast majority of these councils' income through a flat cash funding floor.

We will engage directly with a small number of councils whose new share of funding is furthest from where they are currently, to support them to manage larger losses. Many of these councils have prepared for long overdue reforms which the previous government consulted on, including by setting aside reserves.

Our proposed transitional arrangements are subject to consultation and we will set out the detail of them in the autumn. We will then publish allocations at the provisional multi-year Settlement later this year.

■ Local Government: Disclosure of Information

Noah Law:

[66818]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether she is taking steps to expand the definition of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to include (a) being in receipt of an employment offer and (b) being a candidate for employment in an ongoing employment process.

Jim McMahon:

Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act') requires a local authority to make provisions in its member code of conduct not just for the registration of pecuniary interests but also for other interests; this may include employment offers.

Under the Act, local authorities are required to have member code of conduct provisions that conform to the Nolan Principles and promote and maintain high standards of conduct. The Local Government Association has produced guidance on gov.uk [a model code of conduct](#), recommending that they include provisions that members must not use their position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of themselves or anyone else.

It is currently for local authorities to decide their code of conduct in line with lawful requirements. We consulted on a mandatory gov.uk [minimum code of conduct](#) for local authorities in England and will respond to the consultation in due course.

■ Local Government: Public Expenditure

Kevin Hollinrake:

[65807]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 9.3.3 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, whether councils at the 0% funding floor which do not charge the highest council tax increases permitted without a referendum will have a cash terms reduction in funding.

Kevin Hollinrake:

[65808]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 2.3.1 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of lower funding allocations to local authorities with stronger council taxbases on levels of council tax.

Jim McMahon:

As part of the Fair Funding Review 2.0 consultation, the government is inviting views on using some grant for a funding floor, to ensure that local authorities' income is protected by a specified amount across the multi-year Settlement. We propose continuing the existing policy that any protection offered through a funding floor assumes local authorities use their full council tax flexibility.

The Spending Review confirmed that the government intends to maintain the 3% core council tax referendum principle and a 2% principle for the adult social care precept, in line with the previous government's policy and OBR forecasts. These principles protect working people and ensure residents have the final say on excessive increases.

We have set out further detail on these proposals and are inviting views on their potential impact, in the Fair Funding Review 2.0, which is open until 15 August 2025. Final referendum principles will be confirmed at the Settlement in the usual way.

■ Mayors

Vikki Slade:

[66473]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when she expects new elected mayoral roles to be filled for each authority.

Jim McMahon:

The consultations in the six areas on the Devolution Priority Programme have now closed, and the government is carefully considering the evidence collected. Further updates will be communicated in the usual way, in due course.

■ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Stationery

Kevin Hollinrake: [65337]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much her Department has spent on stationery since 5 July 2025.

Alex Norris:

MHCLG has spent £149 on stationery since 5 July 2025.

■ Public Houses and Social Clubs

Stuart Anderson: [66262]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether her Department is taking steps to help increase the number of community (a) pubs and (b) social clubs.

Alex Norris:

This Government recognises the crucial role that pubs and social clubs play in our communities, supporting local economies, providing a sense of community pride, and fostering belonging and connection.

We want to support communities to take ownership of assets that are important to them. Community Right to Buy, introduced in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, will help local people acquire valued community spaces, such as pubs and social clubs, if they come up for sale, keeping these assets in the hands of the community.

■ Social Services: Finance

Kevin Hollinrake: [65803]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what the projected (a) size on average Band D council tax and (b) total receipts of the social care precept is from each year from 2025-26 to 2028-29.

Kevin Hollinrake: [65811]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 9.4.6 of her Department's publication entitled The Fair Funding Review 2.0, published on 20 June 2025, what the assumed increase is in the notional Band D council tax in each year of the multi-year settlement.

Jim McMahon:

It is for individual councils to set their own level of council tax. In 2025-26, data published by MHCLG shows that councils expect to generate £653.6m from the use of the ASC Precept in 2025-26, which adds £34 to average band D bills. The data is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/680a37fc7a11df940be1aaa2/Table_10_2025-26.ods.

For 2026-27 to 2028-29, the Spending Review assumed a 3% core referendum principle and a 2% adult social care precept over the period, in line with OBR forecasts. Final referendum principles will be confirmed at the local government finance settlement each year, subject to approval by the House of Commons, in the usual way. The government is inviting views and supporting evidence on projecting a notional Council Tax level, to ensure places less able to raise tax locally are not left behind. The consultation is open until 15th August.

■ Temporary Accommodation: Children

Lee Pitcher:

[66040]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what estimate her Department has made of the number of children living in temporary accommodation in Doncaster East and the Isle of Axholme constituency.

Rushanara Ali:

The government publishes statistics on homelessness including the number of children in temporary accommodation each quarter through gov.uk. You can find the data gov.uk [here](#).

■ Tower Hamlets Council: Tenants

Kevin Hollinrake:

[66940]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 5.1 of the report of the Ministerial Envoys to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to Ministers, published on 9 July 2025, what assessment the Ministerial Envoys have made of the potential impact of the council not renewing long-term leases for community groups in relation to (a) The Old Ship pub in Limehouse, (b) the Bethnal Green Boxing Club, (c) Millwall Rugby Club, (d) Mudchute Farm, (e) Stifford Centre, (f) Glamis Hall and (g) the Attlee Centre on community relations.

Kevin Hollinrake:

[66941]

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 5.1 of the report of the Ministerial Envoys to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to Ministers, published on 9 July 2025, if she will make it her policy to ask the Mayor to renew the long-term lease for Mudchute Farm.

Jim McMahon:

The statutory intervention in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets put in place a team of Ministerial Envoys to work comprehensively within the Council to oversee and support its work to improve. This includes supporting the Council's work to improve the openness and transparency of its decision making.

The Ministerial Envoys do not take or assess the impact of decisions relating to specific cases; the responsibility for which remains with the Council.

JUSTICE

■ Parole

Damian Hinds:

[\[66140\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate she has made of lead times for Parole Board hearings in each year from the earliest year for which data are available to the latest year for which data are available.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

The Parole Board has worked hard to reduce its growing caseload and manage the time it takes from referral to completion of prisoner reviews at both paper and oral hearings.

Timeliness of Parole Board hearings is not routinely published, however, in its annual report for 2023/24, the Board states that it had seen a reduction of 78% in cases waiting over 90 days to be listed for an oral hearing compared to the previous year: [Parole Board for England and Wales Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24](#).

We continue to work closely with the Parole Board to further improve the efficiency and timeliness of prisoners' parole reviews.

■ Prison Officers: Long Service Awards

David Baines:

[\[65974\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether she plans to extend the Prison Service Long Service Medal to operational officers in privately managed prisons.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

The Prison Services Long Service & Good Conduct Medal is awarded to operational staff in the UK Prison Services on completion of 20 years' continuous meritorious service, and aligns operational public sector prison staff with comparable organisations such as the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services and the Armed Forces. It is a medal awarded by the Head of State to eligible state employees, details of which are set out in a Royal Warrant. In 2016, the Cabinet Office confirmed that official medals of this type can only be awarded to staff working in public sector prisons and not those in prisons run by private sector companies. This is in line with the existing criteria used for the award of Long Service & Good Conduct Medals to the other Crown services.

■ Prisoners' Release: Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland

Luke Myer:

[\[66003\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoners released through early release schemes in 2024 are resident in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

This Government inherited prisons days from collapse. We have had no choice but to take decisive action to stop our prisons overflowing and keep the public safe.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold this data and to provide it would result in a disproportionate cost.

We have published SDS40 release data alongside the quarterly Offender Management Statistics, in line with the Lord Chancellor's commitment to transparency: [Standard Determinate Sentence \(SDS40\) release data - GOV.UK.](#)

■ Prisons: Construction**Damian Hinds:**[\[66139\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of the addition of modular precast concrete blocks in Category C prisons.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

In December, we published the 10-year capacity strategy outlining our commitment to build 14,000 prison places. We have already delivered c.2,500 places in the prison estate since coming into office, including a new c.1,500 place Category C prison HMP Millsike.

To deliver the 14,000 places, we are using a range of supply types which are compliant with standards and requirements for prison accommodation to be safe, decent and lawful. This includes houseblocks and modular units such as Rapid Deployment Cells. We use Modern Methods of Construction and Design for Manufacture and Assembly to provide efficiency in terms of both timelines and costs; for example, through the use of pre-manufactured components, such as pre-cast concrete, which streamlines on site-assembly.

■ Terrorism: Convictions**Rupert Lowe:**[\[66011\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been convicted under terrorism legislation for offences linked to Islamist extremism in the past five years.

Rupert Lowe:[\[66012\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of terrorism-related prisoners in the UK are linked to Islamist ideology.

Rupert Lowe:[\[66013\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people with previous convictions for Islamist terrorism offences have been released.

Rupert Lowe:

[66014]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether her Department tracks the (a) religious and (b) ideological motivations of terrorist offenders as part of offender rehabilitation and risk assessment.

Rupert Lowe:

[66021]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average custodial sentence for people convicted of Islamist terror offences is.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

Information about individuals convicted or in custody for terrorism and terrorism-connected offences, by ideology, is published by the Home Office as part of the 'Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000' statistics series. The series can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000>.

The numbers held in custody are shown on table P.01 of the annual and quarterly tables. As of 31 March 2025 (the most recent data available), 61% of terrorist prisoners were categorised as holding Islamist Extremist views.

Given the sensitive nature of the information, further breakdowns are not published as they may undermine our national security efforts.

Data on all terrorism-related offences is in the published series but not disaggregated by ideology. Table C.03 gives details on the numbers convicted for terrorism-related offences. Information on sentence length is included in table C.04, and the number released by sentence length is provided in table P.05.

All terrorists are managed through a specialist, multi-agency case management process, which includes regular risk assessments and rehabilitative tools to identify, assess and manage an offender's terrorist risk and needs, including any clear links to an extremist ideology. We have a range of interventions to address and reduce the drivers of radicalisation and move offenders away from harmful ideologies. Our interventions are carried out by qualified staff who receive specialist training. The tracking of religion relies on prisoners' self-declaration.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Northern Ireland Office: Apprentices

Stuart Anderson:

[66263]

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whether he is taking steps to increase the number of apprenticeships within his Department.

Hilary Benn:

The Northern Ireland Office remains committed to supporting the use of apprenticeships to break down barriers to opportunity. This includes supporting the

Government's commitment to 2,000 digital apprenticeships through its TechTrack scheme by 2030 to improve digital skills and drive improvements and efficiency in public services.

As a department, the Northern Ireland Office annually recruits a Communication Apprentice through the Government Communications Service.

■ Women: Northern Ireland

Tonia Antoniazzi: [\[65838\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers* of 16 April 2025 on Northern Ireland.

Hilary Benn:

Equal opportunities and anti-discrimination law remain devolved matters in Northern Ireland, and the Equality Act 2010 does not apply in Northern Ireland (save in some very limited areas).

We expect those affected by the Supreme Court judgment in the 'For Women Scotland' case to comply with this ruling, together with any other relevant legislation and guidance. As they always have, courts across the UK should continue to give full and proper regard to the jurisprudence from higher courts.

As equalities is transferred, whether the Executive chooses to implement policies or legislation to respond to the judgment remains a matter for the Executive.

SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

■ Animal Experiments

Wera Hobhouse: [\[65837\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what discussions his Department has had with experts on (a) transitional science and (b) change management on the roadmap to phase out animal testing.

Feryal Clark:

The Labour Manifesto commits to "partner with scientists, industry, and civil society as we work towards the phasing out of animal testing". This transition must be science-led and the Government has been consulting industry, academia and civil society as this process unfolds.

Although we have not yet engaged specifically on translational science and change management, we will consider this as we move into implementation of the Strategy to support the development, validation and uptake of alternative methods, which we will publish later this year. We will shortly host a workshop with translational experts ahead of publication of the strategy.

■ Antisemitism

Louise Haigh:

[\[65792\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of the report by the Antisemitism Policy Trust entitled Antisemitism Goes Viral, published on 19 December 2024.

Feryal Clark:

The Government condemns all forms of hate crime, including antisemitism, and recognises the serious concerns raised in the Antisemitism Policy Trust's report about the prevalence of antisemitic abuse online.

We are committed to ensuring that users can engage online without fear of harassment or abuse. Since publication of this report, the illegal safety duties under the Online Safety Act have come into force, Online platforms and search services need to prioritise tackling hateful content under their new duties, subject to Ofcom's regulatory oversight.

■ Artificial Intelligence: Offences against Children

Dame Chi Onwurah:

[\[65761\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, whether he plans to take steps through a regulatory framework for artificial intelligence to (a) mandate safety-by-design principles, (b) mitigate potential harms and (c) prevent AI-generated child sexual abuse material.

Feryal Clark:

As set out in the AI Opportunities Action Plan, we believe most AI systems should be regulated at the point of use, with our expert regulators best placed to do so. Departments are working proactively with regulators to provide clear strategic direction and support them on their AI capability needs.

On Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) specifically, creating, possessing, or distributing AI-generated CSAM is illegal, and the Online Safety Act requires services to identify and remove it. We are also taking further action in the Crime and Policing Bill to criminalise AI models which have been optimised to create CSAM.

■ Artificial Intelligence: Regulation

Louise Haigh:

[\[65794\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what discussions his Department has had with regulators on the future application of AI.

Louise Haigh:

[\[65795\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what discussions (a) he and (b) his Department has had with (a) health, (b) environment, (c) energy, (d) film, (e) education, (f) business and (g) transport regulators on the impact of AI technology on their areas of regulation.

Feryal Clark:

Please refer to the answer the Department of Science, Innovation, and Technology gave on 14 July to Question [66210](#).

■ Cybersecurity: Manchester Rusholme**Afzal Khan:**[\[65853\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of the cyber security industry in Manchester Rusholme on economic growth in the North West; and whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to update the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Feryal Clark:

The government's new Industrial Strategy highlights cyber security as a strategically important sector and one with potential for high growth. The annual UK Cyber Security Sectoral Analysis shows the sector is worth £13.2 billion, up 12% on the previous year, having grown significantly each year since the analysis began.

Greater Manchester is recognised in the Industrial Strategy as a key centre of innovation and technology, with our analysis showing 8% of UK cyber companies and 10% of the country's cyber workforce are based in the North West. Last year the North West attracted £101.5m in private equity cyber security investment, accounting for 49% of the UK total, the most for any region or devolved administration in the UK. The region is home to the Digital Information Security Hub (DiSH) and The University of Manchester is also recognised as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research, highlighting Manchester's importance in the cyber security industry.

The Home Office is reviewing the Computer Misuse Act, and will update on proposals taken forward in due course.

■ Digital Technology: Equality**Jim Shannon:**[\[65773\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what steps he is taking to help tackle digital skills inequalities.

Chris Bryant:

In February we published a Digital Inclusion Action Plan, which outlines the first five actions we are taking over the next year to boost digital inclusion across the UK.

These will be targeted at local initiatives for boosting digital skills and confidence, widening access to devices and connectivity, and supporting people in their communities. This includes increasing digital upskilling, and enhancing support for the Essential Digital Skills framework, which helps businesses and individuals obtain the necessary digital skills.

Additionally, The Department will deliver a £187 million 'TechFirst' programme and a charter to deliver AI skills for 7.5 million workers.

■ Electronic Government: Contracts

Sarah Edwards:

[\[65921\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, if he will make it his policy to transition government digital services to (a) free and (b) open-source providers.

Feryal Clark:

Where appropriate, the Government makes use of free and open-source providers. The Digital, Data & Technology playbook provides guidance on sourcing and contracting for digital, data and technology projects and programmes. Cabinet Office & Government Digital Service are currently working together to define a comprehensive sourcing strategy for what we build, what we buy and how we partner. This will include use of open-source solutions.

■ Intellectual Property: Arts

Max Wilkinson:

[\[65932\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, which organisations have been invited to meet his Department in plenary sessions to discuss the intellectual property rights of creative industries.

Feryal Clark:

The Government has committed to establishing stakeholder working groups to inform the development of policy on copyright and AI.

In line with debates in Parliament on the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, the Secretaries of State for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are convening the first meeting of these stakeholder working groups on 16th July. The Government will publish details and a list of working group members in due course.

■ Internet: Children

Jim Shannon:

[\[65772\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what steps his Department is taking to keep children safe online.

Feryal Clark:

Keeping children safe online is a priority for this government. Through the Online Safety Act, children already benefit from the protections of the illegal content duties, and later this month the child safety duties will come into force, providing additional protections. Once in force, services in-scope will be required to protect children from harmful content, including pornography, suicide and self-harm material.

Ofcom – the regulator of the Act – has robust enforcement powers to use should services not comply with their duties. The government continues to consider all options in pursuit of child online safety building on provisions in the Act.

■ Met Office: Remote Working**Sir John Hayes:** [\[65713\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, how much the Met Office has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Feryal Clark:

The Met Office has had the ability to track and report totals for the provision of monitors, mice and keyboards for staff working from home, where required, since August 2024. Since then, the total cost to date is £21,551.95.

For the period preceding August 2024, it is not possible to identify the costs specifically related to home working without incurring disproportionate cost.

■ Social Media: Utah**Dame Chi Onwurah:** [\[65760\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of taking legislative steps to require social media platforms to enable users to transfer their (a) data, (b) content and (c) connections between competing services, in the context of the Digital Choice Act in Utah, US.

Chris Bryant:

Article 20 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) already provides individuals with a right to 'data portability'. It applies where an individual has provided their personal data to one data controller based on consent or a contract and wants that organisation to transmit it directly to another data controller. The right only applies to personal data that is being processed by automated means and where the transmission would be technically feasible.

The Information Commissioner's Office, the UK's independent regulator for data protection, has published guidance for organisations on the right to data portability, which can be viewed at [Right to data portability | ICO](#).

TRANSPORT**■ Bus Services: Lancashire****Mr Andrew Snowden:** [\[66722\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent steps she has taken with relevant authorities to help increase the safety of bus drivers in (a) Fylde and (b) Lancashire.

Simon Lightwood:

The Government have introduced the Bus Services (No.2) Bill which focuses on delivering safe, more reliable bus networks. The Bill sets requirements for mandatory training on how to recognise and respond appropriately to incidents of criminal and

anti-social behaviour, on buses for staff, including drivers and those who deal directly with the travelling public or with issues related to the travelling public.

Provisions in the Bus Services (No.2) Bill would also give all local transport authorities (LTAs) the power to make bus byelaws, which can be enforced by local authority officers on vehicles and at bus stations and stops. This, combined with targeted enforcement should lead to safer networks. Transport Safety Officers or Transport Safety and Enforcement Officers are also already operating in some areas.

All LTAs in England are required to publish Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) with information on how they intend to improve services in their area. LTAs have been informed that BSIPs should include plans on how LTAs and local bus operators will work together to ensure that bus services are safe and perceived to be safe by all. This may include measures such as appropriate passenger safety training for bus drivers to deal with emergency situations on or off the bus and encouraging bus operators to liaise with local police and other stakeholders to address safety concerns.

■ **Bus Services: West Midlands**

Wendy Morton:

[\[66917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Spending Review 2025 published on 11 June 2025, how much of the £750 million per year for maintaining and improving bus service will be allocated to the West Midlands.

Simon Lightwood:

The Government reaffirmed its commitment to investing in bus services long-term in the Spending Review by confirming additional funding from 2026/27 to maintain and improve bus services, and extend the £3 bus fare cap by over a year until March 2027. Allocations for individual LTAs for 26/27 onwards will be confirmed in due course.

■ **Office of Rail and Road: Remote Working**

Sir John Hayes:

[\[65714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much the Office of Rail and Road has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Mike Kane:

The Office of Rail and Road does not differentiate between equipment purchased for use in the office and for home use, so does not hold this information.

■ **Railways: Shropshire**

Helen Morgan:

[\[67161\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 25 June 2025 to Question 65118 on Railways: North Shropshire, whether her Department plans to provide

any additional funding to improve railway services to (a) North Shropshire and (b) Shropshire.

Simon Lightwood:

Following the Spending Review both the Chancellor and Secretary Of State have committed to the transformative Midlands Rail Hub programme, which will upgrade connectivity, reliability and provide capacity for hundreds of extra trains per day into Birmingham, including benefits to those stopping at Shrewsbury and Gobowen. Funding was also confirmed to support feasibility studies for works to improve accessibility for all passengers at 50 stations including at Whitchurch in Shropshire.

Later this year the Department will review the case for line speed improvements between Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury when the business case is completed. Any funding would be subject to a satisfactory business case which represents value for money, affordability and strong benefits for the country.

■ **Roads: Accidents**

Helen Morgan:

[\[67164\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many serious vehicle accidents have resulted from potholes in (a) North Shropshire constituency and (b) Shropshire in each year since 2020.

Helen Morgan:

[\[67165\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many serious vehicle accidents caused by potholes have resulted in a driver or passenger death in (a) North Shropshire constituency and (b) Shropshire in each year since 2020.

Lilian Greenwood:

Statistics on reported road injury collisions in Great Britain are published based on data reported by police via the data collection known as STATS19.

Within STATS19, reporting police officers can assign up to 6 factors which they believe may have contributed to the collision, including 'poor or defective road surface'. Contributory factors are assigned based on the opinions of the reporting officer at the scene or within a short time of the collision, rather than a detailed investigation.

The number of serious collisions in Shropshire and North Shropshire (constituency) where a police officer assigned the contributory factor "poor or defective road surface" are given in the table below:

YEAR	NORTH SHROPSHIRE (CONSTITUENCY)	SHROPSHIRE
2020	0	0
2021	0	2

YEAR	NORTH SHROPSHIRE (CONSTITUENCY)	SHROPSHIRE
2022	2	3
2023	1	1

There were no drivers or passengers killed in collisions in Shropshire and North Shropshire (constituency) where a police officer assigned the contributory factor “poor or defective road surface” between 2020 to 2023.

■ Roads: North Shropshire

Helen Morgan: [\[67162\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of potholes in North Shropshire constituency.

Helen Morgan: [\[67163\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much funding her Department has provided to Shropshire Council to fill potholes in each year since 2015.

Lilian Greenwood:

Shropshire Council, as a local highway authority, has been allocated the following highway maintenance funding since 2015:

YEAR	HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
2015/16	£16,498,000
2016/17	£16,160,000
2017/18	£18,756,250
2018/19	£20,588,000
2019//20	£16,948,396
2020/21	£30,253,000
2021/22	£20,599,000
2022/23	£20,599,000
2023/24	£26,880,000
2024/25	£23,218,000
2025/26	£33,680,000

The Government has already provided an additional £500 million increase for local highway maintenance this financial year. As a result of this increase, Shropshire Council will receive up to £9.1 million more in additional funding.

Building on this, at the spending review the Chancellor announced that the Government will be providing £24 billion of capital funding between 2026-27 and 2029-30 to maintain and improve motorways and local roads across the country. This funding increase will allow National Highways and local authorities to invest in significantly improving the long-term condition of England's road network, delivering faster, safer and more reliable journeys.

■ Transport: Disability

Dr Scott Arthur:

[66780]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to Sustran's report entitled Transforming mobility, published on 8 July 2025, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of establishing paid local access panels to (a) review and (b) improve transport (i) policy and (ii) practice for disabled people.

Simon Lightwood:

The Sustrans Transforming Mobility Report highlights how paid access panels could be one means by which local transport authorities engage with disabled people to shape, review, and monitor transport policies and projects, so that accessibility is embedded from the start of projects.

This recommendation is aimed at local leaders, who know their communities and are best placed to make decisions about how they can improve local transport for disabled people. Improving accessibility is a collaborative effort, with operators, industry, and local authorities having key parts to play – alongside the support of all passengers. Breaking down barriers to opportunity is a core mission statement for this government and that is why we are developing an Integrated National Transport Strategy to enable us to better work with partners across the transport sector to deliver a network that works for all passengers.

More widely, the government is committed to improving public transport services, so they are more inclusive and enable disabled people to travel safely, confidently and with dignity. The Bus Services (No.2) Bill, introduced by the government on 17 December is intended to ensure networks meet the needs of the communities who rely on them and includes measures which will make bus travel more accessible and inclusive. In addition, on 1 October 2024, the first phase of the Public Service Vehicles (Accessible Information) Regulations 2023 came into force, meaning that newer vehicles providing local services must provide audible and visible information on stops, destinations and diversions. The majority of services will need to comply by October 2026.

Ensuring the rail network is accessible is at the heart of our passenger-focused approach to improving rail services. We are committed to improving the experience for disabled passengers and have committed to publishing an accessibility roadmap

to explain the actions we are taking to improve accessibility ahead of the establishment of Great British Rail.

■ **Vehicle Number Plates**

Ben Obese-Jecty:

[\[67586\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment she has made of the level of use of infra-red reflective number plates.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is working with the National Police Chiefs' Council, various police forces and Trading Standards in relation to the supply and use of infra-red number plates. Work is ongoing to quantify the number of illegal number plates that are in circulation. The evidence gathered will support future initiatives needed to address this issue.

■ **Whitchurch Station: Access**

Helen Morgan:

[\[67160\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the announcement on railway stations awarded Access for All accessibility funding, published on 24 May 2024, what her planned timeline is for the completion of Access for All construction at Whitchurch Railway Station.

Simon Lightwood:

This government is committed to improving the accessibility of the railway and recognises the social and economic benefits this brings to communities.

In May 2024, the previous government selected 50 stations for initial feasibility work for potential upgrades as part of our Access for All programme. This included Whitchurch railway station in Shropshire. We expect to provide an update to stakeholders during the summer.

■ **Wrexham, Shropshire & Midlands Railway**

Wendy Morton:

[\[66918\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the Office of Rail and Road's decision to reject the open access application from Wrexham, Shropshire & Midlands Railway (WSMR) on passengers.

Simon Lightwood:

The Department remains committed to Open Access where it provides genuine benefits for passengers through improved connectivity and does not disproportionately impact taxpayers or performance of the network. That is why we supported WSMR's application, acknowledging the benefits that it would provide to passengers in the communities served while noting potential capacity constraints on the West Coast Main Line.

Access to the railway network, however, is a decision for the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) in its capacity as independent regulator, and it is only right that ORR considers capacity and impacts to passengers across the network more broadly as key parts of its assessments. In this instance, ORR deemed that WSMR's proposed services could not practicably be introduced due to lack of capacity on the West Coast Main Line.

TREASURY

■ Business Rates

Sir Gavin Williamson:

[\[65756\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she plans to continue the 40 percent relief on business rates for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure businesses into the 2026-27 financial year.

James Murray:

Retail, hospitality and leisure (RHL) relief has been extended year-by-year by previous governments since the pandemic. It has been a stopgap measure, and we recognise that businesses need longer term certainty on their business rates liabilities.

Without any Government intervention, RHL relief would have ended entirely in April 2025, creating a cliff-edge for businesses. Instead, the Government is providing a 40 per cent discount to RHL properties up to a cash cap of £110,000 per business in 2025-26, ahead of introducing permanently lower rates for RHL properties with rateable values below £500,000 from April 2026.

■ Business Rates: Valuation

Kevin Hollinrake:

[\[65813\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make it her policy to increase £500,000 threshold for the new surcharge on business rates in line with the increase in aggregate rateable values from the 2026 business rates revaluation.

James Murray:

As announced at Autumn Budget 2024, the Government intends to introduce a higher business rates multiplier for all properties with a rateable value (RV) of £500,000 or above in April 2026 to fund permanently lower multipliers for retail, hospitality and leisure properties with RVs below £500,000.

The final details of the higher multiplier will be announced at Autumn Budget 2025 in light of the outcomes of the 2026 revaluation, which is currently ongoing.

■ Chagos Islands: Sovereignty

James Cartlidge:

[\[66588\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 10 July 2025 to Question 65293 on Defence: Finance, what the total quantum of spend on the Chagos settlement is, for each remaining year of the current Parliament.

Darren Jones:

The UK's financial obligations under the UK-Mauritius Treaty can be found in the document 'UK/Mauritius: Agreement concerning the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia', which is available on Gov.uk. Payments will be managed responsibly within the government's fiscal framework and reported in annual accounts in the usual way. Obligations within MOD and FCDO budgets have been agreed through the recently published Spending Review. No payments will be made until the treaty is legally binding.

■ Clothing: Import Duties

Sir Jeremy Hunt:

[\[66745\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she has made a recent assessment of the potential merits of removing the customs duty on mastectomy bras.

James Murray:

The UK's tariff schedule, known as the UK Global Tariff (UKGT), adheres to global classification standards. Those classify mastectomy bras under a commodity code that covers a range of other textiles.

We continue to monitor the UKGT to ensure our Most Favoured Nation tariff schedule functions as effectively as possible, supports domestic priorities, and provides a stable operating environment for businesses.

Businesses are able to request the partial or full liberalisation of the import duty applied to the products under this commodity code, including mastectomy bras, either through the online feedback form or the next business suspensions window.

■ Cybercrime: Insurance

Neil Coyle:

[\[66934\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether her Department has made an assessment of the adequacy of the (a) insurance and (b) reinsurance market for businesses affected by cyber-attacks.

Emma Reynolds:

The government recognises that cyber insurance is an important tool for businesses' economic resilience. HM Treasury works closely with industry, regulators, other government departments and relevant stakeholders to monitor insurance markets, including cyber. Cyber insurance is widely offered in the UK insurance market and the government would encourage businesses to shop around, or employ the services of a broker, to find the most appropriate cover, at the best price.

■ Defence: Finance**Pippa Heylings:****[65971]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the use of Defence Bonds for financing military expenditure; and whether her Department has had recent discussions with financial investors on their issuance.

Darren Jones:

As the Prime Minister announced in February, we are fully funding the path to 2.5% by reducing ODA spending. That is why we can announce a £10.9bn real-terms increase to the MOD budget over the Spending Review period. On top of this, we are recognising the contribution provided by our intelligence agencies on defence, in line with practice among our Allies. This means that in 2027-28 we expect to reach 2.6% of GDP

The increase in defence spending will be funded by reducing ODA from 0.5% to 0.3% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2027, and reinvesting it into defence.

The government's core gilt programme is the most stable and cost-effective way of raising finance to fund the day-to-day activities of the government, owing to the depth and liquidity of the market. This is, in part, down to the fungibility of the instruments issued to the market. Issuing bonds aimed at financing specific areas of spending risks fragmenting the gilt market, which would not be consistent with the government's debt management objective of minimising the long-term cost of financing, taking into account risk.

The government keeps under regular review the introduction of new debt instruments. The government would however need to be satisfied that any new instrument would meet value-for-money criteria, enjoy strong and sustained demand in the long term, and be consistent with wider fiscal objectives.

■ Directors: Income**Euan Stainbank:****[65980]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether her Department plans to bring forward legislative proposals on the employment status of joint or sole directors who receive their income from both dividends and a salary.

James Murray:

An individual's employment status is determined by the facts and circumstances of the engagement between the worker and engager. This is based on case law.

HMRC takes steps to ensure individuals are correctly treated as employees, or as self-employed, where they should be. HMRC provides extensive guidance to support organisations and individuals understand and determine employment status for tax.

The Government acknowledges that differences in tax treatment between employees, the self-employed and those working through a company structure can lead to individuals paying different amounts of tax while doing very similar work.

Rates of dividend tax are lower than the main rates of income tax, partly to recognise the fact that corporation tax may have been charged on the profits that are then distributed in the form of dividends

The off-payroll working rules, also known as IR35, have been in place for 25 years. They are designed to ensure that individuals working like employees but through their own company, usually a personal service company (PSC), pay broadly the same income tax and National Insurance contributions (NICs) as those who are directly employed.

■ Employers' Contributions

Steve Darling:

[\[65953\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment the Government has made of the merits of introducing National Insurance Contributions exemptions for employers who hire individuals transitioning off working benefits.

James Murray:

The Government is committed to providing people who are out of work with the personalised support they need to find work, aiding the long-term ambition of an 80% employment rate. At the Spending Review, the Government increased funding for employment support to over £3.5 billion by 2028-29, helping people to access the skills they need to progress, tackling unemployment and inactivity and ensuring more people are in better jobs.

There are a wide range of factors to take into consideration when introducing a tax relief. These include how effective the relief would be at achieving the policy intent, how targeted support would be, whether it adds complexity to the tax system, and the cost.

■ Energy Intensive Industries: Finance

Nick Timothy:

[\[65948\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps she is taking to allocate revenues from carbon pricing to help increase levels of (a) industrial resilience and (b) innovation in high energy-consuming sectors.

James Murray:

The Government is committed to maintaining an ambitious carbon pricing scheme to ensure that polluters continue to pay for their emissions. The UK's lead carbon pricing policy is the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

The ETS raised c.£3.5 billion in the 2024-25 financial year, and the funds raised by the scheme are invested in the Government's spending priorities, including public services and decarbonisation efforts. The Government is also providing support for industrial energy bills as set out in the Industrial Strategy.

■ High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge

Jim Shannon: [\[65764\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of scrapping the High Income Child Benefit Charge.

James Murray:

While the government understands the concerns that have been raised about the High Income Child Benefit Charge (HICBC), it is currently the best way to manage Child Benefit expenditure. By withdrawing Child Benefit from high-income families, the HICBC helps to ensure the sustainability of the public finances and protect our vital public services.

■ Housing: Construction

Sorcha Eastwood: [\[65996\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions she has had with the Minister for Finance for Northern Ireland on the ability of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to borrow to start to build homes.

Darren Jones:

As Chief Secretary to the Treasury, I am in regular contact with the Northern Ireland Minister of Finance on matters relating to Northern Ireland Executive funding, including the request for enhanced borrowing powers for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This issue was most recently discussed at the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee on 26 June 2025.

As part of the 2025 Spending Review, HM Treasury committed to begin immediate negotiations on a comprehensive Fiscal Framework for Northern Ireland. These discussions will include consideration of borrowing arrangements for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

■ National Infrastructure Commission: Remote Working

Sir John Hayes: [\[65716\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much the National Infrastructure Commission has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Darren Jones:

As equipment costs to enable working from home were processed as expenses, and are approved on an individual basis, the information is not readily available and providing it would incur a disproportionate cost to the organization.

■ National Insurance: Fraud

Dr Rupa Huq: [\[65820\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps her Department is taking to protect National Insurance numbers from repeated (a) misuse and (b) fraud.

James Murray:

A National Insurance Number (NINo) is a unique reference number used to administer the Benefits and National Insurance systems. It is not proof of identity and cannot be used on its own to access HMRC records or systems.

HMRC regularly urges customers to be alert to scams requesting personal information, including their NINo.

Dr Rupa Huq:[\[65821\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the potential merits of introducing real-time alerts for compromised National Insurance numbers.

James Murray:

The Department for Work and Pensions have processes in place to flag NINos and will monitor flagged NINos daily for inappropriate use.

■ Power Failures**Nick Timothy:**[\[65949\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether contingency planning is in place for potential macroeconomic disruption resulting from prolonged national electricity blackouts.

Darren Jones:

HM Treasury has a comprehensive framework for assessing and managing potential risks to the economic outlook, including those posed by national power outages. This framework involves systematic monitoring through internal risk monitors, risk governance forums, and collaboration with other government departments such as the Cabinet Office and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

HM Treasury also engages with the Bank of England and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), as the financial sector regulators, to ensure the sector is prepared to respond to a range of risks, including national power outages.

■ Public Bodies: Employers' Contributions**Mr Richard Holden:**[\[65876\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether her Department has provided additional funding to government departments to compensate public bodies for the increase in employer National Insurance contributions for each year of the Spending Review 2025.

James Murray:

At Autumn Budget 2024 the Government set aside funding to support the public sector with the additional cost of employer National Insurance Contributions. The Government then updated Parliament on allocations by department for 2025-26 (published alongside Main Estimates 2025-26).

Spending Review 2025 departmental settlements fully reflect these changes for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29, with the Barnett formula applying in the usual way.

■ Small Businesses: Business Rates

Sir Gavin Williamson:

[\[65757\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate her Department has made of the number of businesses that will no longer be eligible for Small Business Rate Relief as a result of inflationary and revaluation-driven increases in rateable values at the 2026 revaluation.

James Murray:

Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) is available to businesses with a single property with a rateable value (RV) below the threshold of £15,000. If a business expands to a second property, it retains SBRR on the first property for 12 months. Following that, the business is not eligible for SBRR unless additional properties have an RV below £2,899 and their total property portfolio has an RV below £20,000 (£28,000 in London).

Currently, over a third of properties (more than 700,000) pay no business rates as they receive 100 per cent SBRR, with an additional c.60,000 benefiting from reduced bills as this relief tapers.

Every three years, all commercial properties are revalued by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). The 2026 revaluation, which will take effect from April 2026, will update RVs and may, therefore, affect businesses' eligibility for SBRR. The revaluation process is ongoing and the VOA are required to publish a draft of all properties' new RVs this year.

■ Terrorism: Insurance

Neil Coyle:

[\[66182\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether existing (a) insurance and (b) reinsurance mechanisms cover (i) subsea cabled and (ii) other off-shore assets in the event of a terrorist attack.

Emma Reynolds:

The owners or operators of subsea cables and other off-shore assets are responsible for the insurance of their assets.

There is a wide variety of insurance products available in the UK market, including from speciality insurers. The government would always recommend the companies shop around, or engage the services of a specialist broker, to ensure they can access the cover they need at the best price.

WALES**■ Job Creation: Wales****Gill German:**[\[905160\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to help create new jobs in Wales.

Jo Stevens:

In just twelve months, this Labour government has supported **over £3.4 billion** in private investment into Wales, creating and sustaining **over 8000 jobs**.

Wales now punches above its weight, landing nearly **5%** of all UK inward investment projects, up from **3.4%** before the election.

Our Industrial Strategy will create tens of thousands of jobs in Wales, backed by our trade deals, Freeports, Investment Zones, and Defence Growth Deal.

This is the difference two Labour governments working together makes for Wales.

■ Living Wage and Minimum Wage: Wales**Melanie Ward:**[\[905162\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of increases in the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage on people in Wales.

Dame Nia Griffith:

Up to 160,000 workers across Wales received a record pay rise through increases to the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage.

Full-time workers on the National Living Wage will see a real-terms pay increase of £1,400 per year, whilst 18-to-20-year-olds will get a record boost of £2,500 each year. This will help provide people across Wales with better financial stability.

■ Trawsfynydd Power Station**Liz Saville Roberts:**[\[66236\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions her Department has had with a) the Welsh Government and b) Cyngor Gwynedd on the regeneration of the former Trawsfynydd nuclear site.

Jo Stevens:

The UK Government has regular discussions with the Welsh Government on a range of issues including our joint ambition for Wales to be at the forefront of the clean energy transition.

The UK Government is committed to delivering a secure, reliable, and low-carbon energy future for the UK and we have committed almost £17bn across the Spending Review period to the most ambitious nuclear new build programme for a generation.

This includes making available over £2.5bn across the Spending Review period to enable one of Europe's first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) programmes. Great British Energy – Nuclear has selected Rolls-Royce SMR as its preferred bidder to partner with to build the UK's first small modular reactors, subject to government approvals and contract signature.

The government values the work undertaken by Cwmni Eginio to develop socio-economic growth opportunities from new nuclear development in North Wales. Trawsfynydd could be a candidate for new nuclear in future and is one of a number of potential sites that could host new civil nuclear projects, subject to national planning policy, regulatory approvals and technical assessments.

■ United Kingdom

John Cooper: [\[905161\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on strengthening the Union.

Dame Nia Griffith:

The Spending Review demonstrated how our two Labour Governments are investing in Wales' future and strengthening our Union for generations to come.

With a record settlement for the Welsh Government, an historic investment of at least £445m into Welsh rail, money to keep coal tips safe and protecting every penny of Wales' growth funds, we have ended Tory austerity.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Crisis and Resilience Fund

Afzal Khan: [\[65851\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department plans to allocate funding for furniture provision through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Alison McGovern:

The new Crisis and Resilience Fund will be introduced from 1 April 2026. This represents the first ever multi-year settlement for locally delivered crisis support

We will be working closely with local authorities and external stakeholders on the detailed design of the Crisis and Resilience Fund and We will issue further information on our planned approach in due course.

■ Employment

Cameron Thomas: [\[66495\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department is taking to encourage people who are not in employment but have the capability to work to re-enter the workforce.

Alison McGovern:

Our Get Britain Working reforms, set out in a White Paper in November last year, will tackle economic inactivity, build a thriving labour market, and increase the number of people in work. By delivering the biggest reforms to employment support for a generation, with a combined focus on skills and health, we will enable more people to get into work and get on in work. This will move us toward our long-term ambition of an 80% employment rate, which is central to growing the economy.

Building on our Get Britain Working reforms, our 'Pathways to Work Guarantee' will provide work, health, and skills support for disabled people and those with health conditions claiming out of work benefits. As announced in the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions' [statement on Welfare Reform](#) on 30 June, we have increased the funding for employment support for disabled people and those with health conditions, investing an additional £300m over the next 3 years. This means our Pathways to Work Guarantee is now an investment of £2.2 billion by 2030 and brings our total investment in employment support for disabled people and those with health conditions to £3.8 billion over this Parliament.

■ Employment: Artificial Intelligence**Max Wilkinson:**[\[66316\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of greater use of artificial intelligence in workplaces on welfare spending.

Andrew Western:

We are already witnessing AI's impact on the labour market: transforming the workplace, demanding new skills and changing the jobs landscape. We remain mindful of this impact and its effect on the UK workforce and DWP customers, whilst working to harness the benefits that AI can bring.

DWP has a strong track record of providing financial help during economic shifts and supporting people to reskill and to re-enter work. We are continuing to deliver our Get Britain Working reforms to ensure we provide people with access to good work and training opportunities fit for the future.

DWP is also working across government to ensure that we are able to respond to emerging trends within the labour market, and to make the most of opportunities for economic growth, job creation and productivity.

■ Employment: Neurodiversity**Sarah Gibson:**[\[67231\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department has set any targets for improving employment rates among autistic adults; and what additional support is being provided to employers to create neurodiverse-friendly workplaces.

Alison McGovern:

In the plan to Make Work Pay (October 2024), government committed to raising awareness of all forms of neurodiversity in the workplace. This includes autism. We are supporting employers to be more inclusive in their workplace practices.

In January this year we launched an independent panel of academics with expertise and experiences of neurodiversity. This will build on the work of the independent Buckland Review which reported to the previous government in February 2024, and which focused more narrowly on autism employment. The panel will consider the reasons why neurodivergent people have poor experiences in the workplace, and a low overall employment rate, making their recommendations to employers and government later this summer.

The Secretaries of State for Work and Pensions and Business and Trade have also asked Sir Charlie Mayfield to lead the independent review Keep Britain Working. While not specific to neurodiversity, this review is considering how best to support and enable employers to recruit and retain more people with health conditions and disabilities, promote healthy and inclusive workplaces, and how to support more people to stay in or return to work. Sir Charlie Mayfield will deliver his final report in the autumn.

Our existing support includes:

- Connect to Work which will make supported employment available to around 100,000 people each year in England and Wales, including autistic people. This will build on Local Supported Employment, which is offering supported employment to people who are autistic, have a learning disability or both;
- Our digital information service, Support with Employee Health and Disability, which provides tailored guidance on supporting employees in common workplace scenarios involving health and disability, including supporting autistic employees or employees with learning disabilities; and
- The voluntary Disability Confident scheme which encourages employers to create disability inclusive workplaces and to support disabled people to get work and get on in work.

The employment of autistic people is estimated using data from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which looks at the employment circumstances of the UK population. It is the largest household survey in the UK and is the recommended source for employment-related statistics, such as estimates of the number of people in employment or unemployed.

■ Health and Safety Executive: Remote Working**Sir John Hayes:****[65711]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Health and Safety Executive has spent on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years.

Sir Stephen Timms:

HSE spend on equipment to enable staff to work from home in each of the last three years is shown in the table below.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
HSE Equipment Spend (inclusive of VAT)	£329,011	£308,537	£317,551

Note – the cost mainly relates to provision of equipment for new starters and HSE has increased its staff numbers in this period mainly due to becoming the Building Safety Regulator.

■ **Personal Independence Payment: Medical Examinations**

Edward Morello:

[\[66066\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department plans to bring forward the timing of Personal Independence Payment review assessments.

Sir Stephen Timms:

We have launched a review of the PIP assessment as a whole, to make sure it is fair and fit for the future in a changing world and helps support disabled people to achieve better health, higher living standards and greater independence. I am leading the review.

We published the Terms of Reference for the Review on 30 June 2025, and will update these shortly. We have committed to co-producing the review with disabled people, the organisations that represent them, clinicians, experts, Members of Parliament and other stakeholders. We will engage widely over the summer to design the process for the work of the review and consider how it can best be co-produced to ensure that expertise from a range of different perspectives is drawn upon.

We are committed to concluding the review by Autumn 2026 and will report outcomes to the House in a ministerial Oral Statement. We have committed to a general debate on this, in Government time. The legislation to implement the outcomes of the review will not be brought forward until that has happened.

■ **Social Security Benefits: Children**

Siân Berry:

[\[66055\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the evidentiary requirements of the non-consensual exception to the two-child limit on Article (a) 8 and (b) 14 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Sir Stephen Timms:

The Department recognises the sensitivities surrounding disclosure that a child was likely born of non-consensual conception and has designed processes that reflect this.

All DWP policies are formulated with regard to legal obligations, including those flowing from the ECHR. The current regulations are considered to be compliant with those obligations.

■ State Retirement Pensions: Women**John McDonnell:**[\[66104\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether she plans to bring forward a compensation scheme for women impacted by State Pension age changes.

Torsten Bell:

The Department's response to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's Investigation into Women's State Pension age communications and associated issues, was published on the 17 December 2024 and is available here:

[Government response to Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's Investigation into Women's State Pension age communications and associated issues - GOV.UK](#)

■ Universal Credit: Veterans**Kevin Bonavia:**[\[66312\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many veterans were claiming universal credit in the Stevenage constituency in the latest period for which data is available.

Kevin Bonavia:[\[66313\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many veterans received the housing element of universal credit in the Stevenage constituency in the latest period for which data is available.

Kevin Bonavia:[\[66314\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many veterans in receipt of the housing element of universal credit were in private rented accommodation in the Stevenage constituency in the latest period for which data is available.

Sir Stephen Timms:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) started collecting data on the Armed Forces status of Universal Credit (UC) claimants in Great Britain (GB) in April 2021. At first only new claimants were asked about their Armed Forces status. From June 2021 onwards, other UC claimants reporting changes in their work and earnings have also been able to report their status. From July 2021 onwards, UC agents have also

been able to record claimants' Armed Forces status if they are told about this via other means such as journal messages, face-to-face meetings or by telephone.

Data coverage continues to improve over time and by November 2024 data was held on the armed forces status of approximately 78% of the GB UC caseload. It should be noted that Armed forces status is self-reported by claimants and is not verified by the Ministry of Defence or Office for Veterans' Affairs. A claimant's status can be recorded as "currently serving", "served in the past", "not served" or "prefer not to say". Data is not collected on the specific branch of the Armed Forces that claimants are serving in or have served in in the past.

Data is not held on the total number of UC claimants who are currently serving in the Armed Forces or who have served in the past, but data is held on those who have identified themselves so far.

The way the data is collected means the claimants for whom an Armed Forces status is recorded may not be representative of the UC caseload as a whole. This means it is not yet possible to produce reliable estimates of the overall number or proportion of UC claimants who are currently serving in the Armed Forces or who have served in the past.

For the purposes of answering these questions, "veterans" has been interpreted as referring to those who have declared having served in the past.

The number of claimants who have identified themselves as veterans in the Stevenage constituency as of November 2024 is: 50.

The housing element of Universal Credit is paid to the claimant household rather than individuals. The number of households receiving the housing element of Universal Credit, containing at least one claimant who has identified themselves as a veteran in the Stevenage constituency as of November 2024 is: 40.

Similarly, the number of households receiving the housing element of Universal Credit, with a tenure type of the Private Rented Sector, containing at least one claimant who has identified themselves as a veteran in the Stevenage constituency as of November 2024 is: 10

1. Figures are for Great Britain. Data is not collected on the Armed Forces status of UC claimants in Northern Ireland.

2. Figures in the table have been rounded to either the nearest ten, hundred, thousand or hundred thousand in line with Department's Official Statistics rounding policy: [Background information note: DWP benefits statistical summary - GOV.UK](#).

3. Further information on the caseload definition used for the UC official statistics can be found on Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

■ Winter Fuel Payment**Richard Foord:****[66678]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate her Department has made of the potential savings to the public purse of issuing the Winter Fuel Payment on a per-household basis.

Torsten Bell:

No such estimate has been made. The Winter Fuel Payment is already a household payment paid on an individual basis.

Winter Fuel Payments are typically £200 for a household with someone of State Pension age and £300 for a household with someone aged 80 or over.

Winter Fuel Payments are paid automatically, without the need to claim, based on information held by DWP.

Where a pensioner is receiving a relevant income-related benefit such as Pension Credit, whether as a single person or as part of a couple, one payment of £200 or £300 (depending on age) is made to that household. This is because Pension Credit is assessed and paid on a household basis.

State Pension is not assessed or paid on a household basis, so shared payments are made to individuals to reflect the household effect. For example, a couple, each under 80 and not on Pension Credit will receive a shared payment amount of £100 each.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

■ Community Health Services: Medical Equipment

Helen Morgan:

[\[66672\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has made an assessment of the financial viability of providers of community equipment.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2025. The correct answer should have been:

Karin Smyth:

The Department is aware of concerns raised by community equipment suppliers. NHS England has published planning guidance setting out the funding available to integrated care boards and the overall approach to funding National Health Service providers in the next financial year, which takes account of a variety of pay and non-pay factors and pressures on providers of secondary healthcare. The NHS Payment Scheme is equally applicable to NHS and non-NHS providers of secondary healthcare.

Local authorities and local NHS procuring authorities, whether integrated care boards or NHS providers, are responsible for discussing and agreeing contracts with community equipment providers, which will consider the resources available to them. At the Autumn 2024 Budget, the Government announced a £22.6 billion increase in day-to-day health spending and a £3.1 billion increase in the capital budget over both the last financial year and this year. Departmental budgets beyond 2025/26 have now been set through phase 2 of the Spending Review. This includes £29 billion more day-to-day funding in real terms than 2023/24 for the NHS, and the largest ever health capital budget, with a £2.3 billion real terms increase in capital spending over the Spending Review period.

Helen Morgan:

[\[66673\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with providers of community equipment on the financial resilience of those providers.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2025. The correct answer should have been:

Karin Smyth:

The Department is aware of concerns raised by community equipment suppliers. NHS England has published planning guidance setting out the funding available to integrated care boards and the overall approach to funding National Health Service providers in the next financial year, which takes account of a variety of pay and non-pay factors and pressures on providers of secondary healthcare. The NHS Payment

Scheme is equally applicable to NHS and non-NHS providers of secondary healthcare.

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■ **Doctors: Conditions of Employment and Pay**

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[R] [\[66243\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on what dates he has met the British Medical Association to discuss resident doctors (a) pay and (b) terms and conditions in 2025.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2025. The correct answer should have been:

Karin Smyth:

My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has met with the British Medical Association to discuss these issues a number of times. The dates and details of these meetings can be found in Department transparency returns, in the usual way.

■ **Maternity Services: Reviews**

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[R] [\[66241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to publish the national maternity and neonatal action plan.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2025. The correct answer should have been:

Karin Smyth:

My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care recently announced an independent investigation into National Health Service maternity and neonatal services, and the establishment of a National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce.

The investigation will produce, by December 2025, one clear set of national recommendations to achieve high quality, safe care across maternity and neonatal services, and will ensure that women and families are listened to.

The taskforce will then develop a national action plan to drive improvements across maternity and neonatal care. The timing for the publication of the action plan will be announced in due course.

In the meantime, work continues to implement the actions set out in NHS England's Three Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services. My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care also announced some immediate actions to boost accountability and safety as part of the Government's mission to build an NHS fit for the future. This includes measures to hold the system to account, a system to better identify safety concerns, rolling out a programme to all trusts to tackle discrimination and racism, and new best practice standards in maternal mortality.

■ NHS

Alison Bennett:

[66801]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people in (a) his Department and (b) NHS England worked on the 10 year plan.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2025. The correct answer should have been:

Karin Smyth:

66 people from the Department and NHS England were solely employed on the development of the 10-Year Health Plan. In addition, a wide range of people across both organisations have been involved as part of their regular work.

■ NHS: Staff

Dr Caroline Johnson:

[R] [66245]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to publish the revised NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2025. The correct answer should have been:

Karin Smyth:

We will publish our 10 Year Workforce Plan by the end of this year. The approach set out in our 10-Year Health plan means we will need a very different kind of workforce strategy. Instead of asking 'how many staff do we need to maintain our current care model over the next 10 years?', our new 10 Year Workforce Plan will ask 'given our reform plan, what workforce do we need, what should they do, where should they be deployed, and what skills should they have?'

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

CABINET OFFICE

■ Test, Learn and Grow Programme Update - Place Partners in England

Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Georgia Gould): [\[HCWS832\]](#)

I am pleased to announce an update on the next stages of the Cabinet Office Test, Learn and Grow Programme, and how it will work with local places across England.

The £100m programme is a flagship part of the government's reform programme and aims to model and scale a Missions approach by bringing policymakers closer to the frontline. The next phase of the Test, Learn and Grow programme will bring cross government teams together with those that use and deliver public services and experience the day to day barriers when processes aren't working to reform services together. New solutions will be built from the ground up, moving rapidly to learn and adapt based on what works. The accelerators will identify blockers and barriers to delivering people focused, preventative public services and work to make change in Government to quickly scale learning.

This 'test and learn' approach - outlined by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in December - will help tackle our biggest national challenges and make better policy with and for communities, to deliver on our Plan for Change. The Programme has already had impact through its work in four locations on family hub services and temporary accommodation.

Today, we are announcing the ten places in England that we will work with as part of the next wave of projects on the ground. In each case, we will test out new approaches to a specific public service challenge, bringing local and central teams together with common purpose on the frontline. In Mayoral Strategic Authority areas, we will work with both MSAs and the relevant local authority creating a partnership approach across all layers of Government to deliver for people.

Challenges the teams will look at will include increasing the uptake of Best Start Family Hubs to support parents and young children, establishing neighbourhood health services, better supporting children with special needs, getting more people into work, rolling out breakfast clubs, and tackling violence against women and girls. The ten places are:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Wakefield Council
- Manchester City Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Northumberland County Council
- Essex County Council

- Plymouth City Council
- Nottingham City Council
- We are working with the GLA and London Councils to agree London borough involvement

Our approach to the programme has been designed in partnership with local government, and I look forward to continuing to work with a wide range of partners to ensure that the learnings and benefits of the Programme are shared widely across the sector. The Programme will build a coalition around Test, Learn and Grow and public service reform, bringing in external expertise and tech specialists, and partnering with public service innovators. We will work closely with other key initiatives and players, and continue to work in the open.

I look forward to engaging with honourable members and local government leaders to make this a truly collaborative programme between local communities and the centre of government. I am grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration of the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution in the United Kingdom, and countless colleagues across central and local government that have helped to shape, design and challenge the programme so far, and I hope will continue to lend their passion and energy.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Media Mergers Legislation

Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth (Stephanie Peacock):

[\[HCWS828\]](#)

As the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport set out in her [Written Statement](#) on 15 May 2025, this Government is committed to a pluralistic media landscape, where citizens are able to access information from a range of sources in order to form opinions whilst ensuring that foreign states are not able to own, control or influence the policy of UK newspapers or news periodicals. The Enterprise Act 2002 (Mergers Involving Newspaper Enterprises and Foreign Powers) Regulations 2025 will permit foreign state-owned investors (SOIs) to hold up to 15% of shares and voting rights in a UK newspaper enterprise as long as they are passive investors with no rights or ability to appoint directors or other company officers or to exercise direct or indirect influence over the newspaper's policies. The changes balance the need to protect our press from foreign state influence with the need to allow newspaper groups the flexibility to attract inward investment from a broad range of sources which do not present a risk to their editorial and operational independence.

We have noted the concerns raised across Parliament that the regulations do not fully deal with the risk of multiple state-owned investors acting on behalf of different states, each being able to hold up to 15%. Although remote, this scenario is not entirely theoretical. Concern was also raised regarding the Government's ability to review all relevant cases.

On 18 June, I gave a commitment in Parliament to address these concerns and so today we have published for consultation a further set of draft regulations to amend the Enterprise Act 2002. The consultation will launch today, 16 July, and will be open for eight weeks until 18 September. Following this consultation, the Government will lay, in draft, a second statutory instrument to make the necessary changes to the legislation later in the autumn.

EDUCATION

■ Guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

**The Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities
(Bridget Phillipson):**

[\[HCWS825\]](#)

I am pleased to share the publication of updated statutory guidance for schools on the teaching of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

We have comprehensively updated the RSHE guidance to address the most challenging issues facing young people today, to make it fit for the digital age, and to equip teachers to support young people to build healthy, respectful relationships in an increasingly complex online world. The new guidance will come into force formally from September 2026. Schools can use it in the meantime to shape their RSHE lessons.

In updating this guidance, we have looked closely at all of the responses to last year's consultation, which are reflected in the consultation response published alongside the new guidance. We have also spoken in detail to experts and to young people, and this guidance reflects their wisdom.

This updated guidance provides a practical framework that enables schools to teach RSHE in a way which puts children's wellbeing and safeguarding at its heart. The guidance is clear about the importance of ensuring that all lessons are age-appropriate. It is clear that parents should be consulted on the content of the RSHE curriculum and have a right to know what their children are being taught, while ensuring that teachers are able to teach about topics preventatively, or to respond swiftly when a risk presents itself earlier than anticipated.

The guidance includes significant new content to ensure that RSHE plays its full role in the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG), as part of our government mission to halve VAWG.

This includes a focus on building healthy relationships skills from the start of primary. It includes an emphasis on opening conversations with young people about positive masculinity and femininity, and ensuring that nobody is stigmatised in these conversations. The guidance is clear that teaching about sexual ethics must go beyond teaching about consent, so that young people understand how to act with kindness and respect in all of their relationships.

The guidance includes new content on teaching about suicide prevention. It is clear that schools should have a plan for addressing suicide prevention safely with secondary school pupils, including ensuring that staff have the knowledge and skills to do so.

The section on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender teaching content is also clear upfront about the difference in rights based on sex and gender reassignment, to reflect the Supreme Court ruling on the interpretation of the Equality Act in the For Women Scotland case. The guidance is also clear about the need to avoid language and activities which repeat or enforce gender stereotypes, which is in line with the conclusions of the Cass Review (2024).

As these matters are devolved, the Department for Education will implement these proposals in England only. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have different policies in place and my department will continue to engage with each of the Devolved Administrations to encourage a joined-up approach on this matter.

This guidance should help our young people to live healthy lives, build strong, respectful relationships and play their part as active citizens in our society.

ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO

■ Consultation Response on Scope of Fusion Energy National Policy Statement

Minister for Climate (Kerry McCarthy):

[\[HCWS834\]](#)

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is today publishing the government's response to the consultation on the scope of the Fusion Energy National Policy Statement (NPS), EN-8. This progresses the government's plan to develop a fusion NPS that will streamline the planning process and help break down the barriers to clean power projects of the future.

Fusion supports the government's Plan for Change, Industrial Strategy and two of the Government's Five Missions:

- Making the UK a Clean Energy Superpower by developing technology for fusion, other clean energy technologies and adjacent sectors, and accelerating to net zero in the longer-term through zero-carbon, abundant, safe, baseload energy.
- Kickstarting Economic Growth through innovation, highly skilled jobs, and tech transfer.

The UK has a genuine global strategic advantage in fusion and is recognised as a world leader in the most promising fusion energy technologies. With countries around the world increasing support and investment into fusion, the UK's expertise and global standing cannot be allowed to atrophy.

That is why the UK Government has backed fusion R&D and commercialisation, making a record investment in R&D for fusion energy, investing over £2.5 billion over 5 years. This includes progressing the STEP programme (Spherical Tokamak for Energy

Production), the world-leading fusion plant in Nottinghamshire, creating thousands of new jobs and with the potential to unlock limitless clean power.

The UK's STEP programme aims to develop and build a prototype fusion powerplant in the UK by 2040. Private fusion companies in the UK and overseas are also quickly developing demonstrator fusion facilities. To deliver these facilities, sites for fusion energy facilities will need to be identified and construction started this decade.

Recognising this need, the Government is taking a proactive stance – backing the industry – by establishing a stable regulatory and planning environment that supports and encourages its development. The UK was the first country in the world to legislate for fusion regulation, confirming that fusion would not be regulated under the same framework as nuclear fission due to its lower hazard potential. By differentiating from fission regulation and breaking down a needless barrier to clean power projects of the future, this new approach has led to increased interest from international companies siting in the UK and has strengthened the UK's position as a world leader in fusion.

A fusion specific NPS is essential for providing clarity to developers and streamlining the planning process for fusion. Not only does this ensure certainty for developers to bring forward their fusion designs and align fusion with other complex energy generating technologies, but, crucially, will support local and national planning inspectors with guidance when assessing potential developments.

The consultation on the scope of EN-8 was undertaken between 7 May 2024 to 17 July 2024 and began the process towards designation of this NPS, seeking views from stakeholders on broad policy proposals. In response to the feedback of consultees, the Government has taken the following decisions:

- The Government will continue the development of EN-8 – the Government recognises the differences in technology between fusion and other technologies already covered by other NPSs, meaning a fusion specific NPS is the only option to properly consider the planning implications of this technology.
- Technology inclusive – all fusion technologies, with exception to fusion-fission hybrids, will be in scope of EN-8.
- EN-8 will take a developer-led approach underpinned by robust strategic criteria to ensure suitable sites are selected with the utmost consideration for environmental and local impacts. This approach would allow siting in more communities across the UK subject to local support.
- Output agnostic – amend the Planning Act 2008 so that all fusion energy facilities generating at least 50 MW in England are incorporated into the National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), independent of thermal or electrical output.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**■ Consultation on draft regulations for TV and online advertising restrictions for less healthy food or drink**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention (Ashley Dalton): [\[HCWS833\]](#)

As part of our ambition to tackle the childhood obesity crisis and raise the healthiest generation of children ever, this Government made a Manifesto commitment to implement advertising restrictions for less healthy food or drink on TV and online.

My statement on 22 May informed the House of the Government's revised approach to implementing the restrictions in response to stakeholder concerns with the Advertising Standards Authority's draft implementation guidance. Having secured agreement from broadcasters and advertisers to voluntarily comply with the restrictions from 1 October 2025, I laid a Statutory Instrument (SI) on 3 June to change the coming into effect date of the restrictions to 5 January 2026.

The next step is to bring forward regulations that will provide the explicit exemption for 'brand advertising'. We have worked closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and I am pleased to update the House that, today, we are launching a consultation on the draft regulations. We are seeking stakeholder views on the draft text to ensure that it provides the clarity that the regulators and stakeholders have asked for and is fit for purpose in delivering the Government's policy intentions to restrict advertising for less healthy food or drink products. The consultation will only seek feedback on the drafting of the brand advertising exemption and will not revisit any other aspects of the policy which are already confirmed and set out in law. The consultation will be published on GOV.UK shortly and be open until 6 August 2025.

The brand advertising exemption will provide legal clarification on the existing policy intention, as it was understood and agreed by Parliament during the passage of the legislation in 2021-2022, that brand advertising which does not identify a specific less healthy food or drink product is out of scope of the restrictions. It is not a change of policy. Setting this out in legislation will enable the regulators to deliver clear implementation guidance and mean that businesses can prepare advertising campaigns with confidence.

These actions demonstrate our commitment and progress to implementing this important policy for children's health. I will update the House once the consultation process has concluded.

■ COVID-19 Vaccination – Autumn 2025

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention (Ashley Dalton): [\[HCWS829\]](#)

His Majesty's Government (HMG) is committed to protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19 through vaccination as guided by the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

On 13 November 2024, the JCVI published advice on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for spring 2025, autumn 2025 and spring 2026. On 26 June 2025 the Government decided, in line with JCVI advice, that a COVID-19 vaccine should be offered in autumn 2025 to those in the population most vulnerable to serious outcomes from COVID-19 and who are therefore most likely to benefit from vaccination.

Vaccination will be offered in England in autumn 2025 to:

- adults aged 75 years and over;
- residents in a care home for older adults;
- individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 chapter of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Green Book on Immunisation against infectious disease.

The Government will respond in due course to the JCVI's advice for spring 2026.

The vaccines that will be supplied for the autumn 2025 programme are the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) vaccines.

Notification of liabilities

I am now updating the House on the liabilities HMG has taken on in relation to further vaccine deployment via this statement and accompanying Departmental Minute laid in Parliament containing a description of the liability undertaken.

As part of the contractual arrangements with COVID-19 vaccine producers for vaccines pre-procured as part of HMG's pandemic emergency response the provision of an indemnity was required to enter into supply agreements. The agreement to provide indemnity increases the contingent liability of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, with deployment of further doses of vaccines purchased as part of the emergency response.

The adult Pfizer BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) doses to be used in autumn 2025 are the only remaining doses of COVID-19 vaccines purchased as part of the emergency response. This will therefore be the last increase in the overall contingent liability arising from an additional deployment of COVID-19 vaccines.

I will update the House as appropriate if any future decisions further impact the contingent liability of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

■ The Independent Review of Physician Associates and Anaesthesia Associates in England

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Wes Streeting): [\[HCWS830\]](#)

In November 2024, I asked Professor Gillian Leng CBE to undertake an independent review of physician associates and anaesthesia associates in England, and to set out recommendations to ensure the safety of the roles and their contributions to multidisciplinary healthcare teams.

Today I want to update the House on next steps following the publication of the Review.

Professor Leng sets out 18 recommendations that will give much-needed clarity, certainty and confidence to staff and patients. The government is accepting these recommendations in full.

The overarching recommendations include: renaming the role of 'physician associate' to 'physician assistant' and 'anaesthesia associate' to 'physician assistant in anaesthesia' to reflect their position as a supportive, complementary member of the medical team; providing ongoing opportunities for training and career development; making it easier for others to identify these roles; establishing permanent faculties to provide professional leadership and set clear professional standards; greater clarity in the differences between the regulatory requirements of doctors and assistant roles; training in line management and leadership for doctors, with additional time allocated; redesigning models of multidisciplinary working; and improvements in safety reporting.

For physician assistants specifically, Professor Leng has recommended that their initial practice is clearly defined in line with job descriptions; they do not see undifferentiated patients (except within clear national clinical protocols); that newly qualified physician assistants should gain at least two years' experience in secondary care, to enhance clinical skills, prior to taking a role in primary care or a mental health trust; and that they should form part of a clear team structure and have a named supervisor.

For physician assistants in anaesthesia, the Review recommends full compliance with the existing Royal College of Anaesthetists scope of practice; that any further expansion of the role should be taken forward in conjunction with the Royal College of Anaesthetists; and that there should be an ongoing national audit of safety outcomes in anaesthesia, to gain assurance around the safety of the Physician Assistants in Anaesthesia role.

Implementing the recommendations will require organisations to work together and take action. Some actions will be implemented immediately, whilst others will require wider input, with benefits being fully realised over time. I have asked NHS England to move with immediate effect to implement those recommendations which most directly affect patient safety, including moving to the use of physician assistants and physician assistants in anaesthesia titles and ensuring that physician assistants do not see undifferentiated patients, except within clearly defined national clinical protocols.

The NHS is its people, and physician assistants and physician assistants in anaesthesia can play a vital role in the delivery of the shifts set out in the 10 Year Health Plan for England. The findings in this report demonstrate that, when integrated appropriately, physician assistants can improve access, enhance capacity, and provide continuity of care, whilst physician assistants in anaesthesia can help expand theatre capacity and flexibility in anaesthesia services.

However, the Review is clear that change is needed. It sets out the fundamental issues that need to be tackled to effectively and consistently embed change into the NHS workforce. These recommendations provide a practical way forward on title, ongoing development and practice that we can all have confidence in.

I would like to express my immense gratitude to Professor Leng and her team for their effort and dedication in carrying out this considered, complex and comprehensive review.

I also want to extend my thanks to all those who have engaged constructively with the Review, including those resident doctors who have respectfully raised concerns, and physician assistants and physician assistants in anaesthesia who make valuable contributions across the NHS and have been subject to intense scrutiny.

We will consider Professor Leng's findings and recommendation in detail in conjunction with the 10-year health plan. The lessons learned in the Review will be embedded into the upcoming workforce plan to improve how we effect change in the NHS, and ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated in the future. We will work with key partners, including NHS England in advance of publishing a fuller response, setting out a clear implementation plan to make the required changes in due course.

HOME OFFICE

■ Call for Evidence – Identification of Victims of Modern Slavery

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls (Jess Phillips): [\[HCWS826\]](#)

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the framework used in the UK to formally identify and support victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, in line with the UK's legal obligations. Effective identification of victims of modern slavery in the UK is critical for ensuring that victims can be protected and provided with appropriate assistance and support towards their recovery from exploitation.

The Government is taking steps to improve this identification system, such as by recruiting new staff to reduce lengthy decision-making times, which has reduced the backlog to half the size it was at its peak. The Government has also updated the form used by First Responders to refer potential victims of modern slavery into the NRM to make it easier to upload information and to include more trauma-informed language.

While progress has been made, the Government recognises the need to do more by designing an effective identification system that is fit for the future. That is why I am pleased to announce that the Government today is publishing a public Call for Evidence on Identification of Victims of Modern Slavery.

This was something that I committed to on 27 March 2025 in a House of Commons debate marking the tenth anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Call for Evidence focuses on definitions of a victim of modern slavery, identification and decision-making processes, and futureproofing the modern slavery system. A key aim is to strengthen the system, both now and for the future, ensuring that it effectively serves victims of modern slavery and is resilient to future changes.

The Call for Evidence on Identification of Victims of Modern Slavery (at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/identification-of-victims-of-modern-slavery>) will run for a 12-week period and provides a valuable opportunity for the public and a wide range of groups with experience of the NRM to have their say, including victims and survivors of modern slavery, NGOs, police, local authorities and researchers.

A copy of the Call for Evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and published on Gov.uk.

■ Publication of Lord Anderson's report - Lessons for Prevent

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Yvette Cooper): [\[HCWS831\]](#)

Following the horrific attack in Southport in July 2024, I announced that a new, dedicated permanent oversight function for Prevent would be created. This would provide continuous independent scrutiny of Prevent legislation, policy, and delivery, to assess Prevent's effectiveness and to ensure proper standards are met.

Lord Anderson KC was appointed as interim Prevent Commissioner to provide that independent scrutiny. He was tasked specifically with scrutinising the Southport attack and the murder of Sir David Amess, examining whether Prevent had failed to intervene effectively in those two cases. Lord Anderson was also asked to consider the improvements that have been made since the perpetrators were referred to Prevent, and to identify areas for further reform. Today he has published his findings, and a copy of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report will also be available on Gov.UK.

I would like to express my gratitude to Lord Anderson and his team, for the progress they have made in a short space of time. The report clearly highlights the failings of Prevent in both the Southport case and that of Sir David Amess, whilst also recognising the energy and urgency that has been shown in making changes to strengthen Prevent.

Lord Anderson's findings

On the tragic murder of Sir David Amess, Lord Anderson has upheld the conclusions of the Prevent Learning Review (PLR) that was published on 12 February 2025. He explains that once the case was adopted into Channel in 2014, several failures took place, including poor communication with the Intervention Provider and the lack of a 6-month review.

With regards to the perpetrator of the Southport attack, Lord Anderson agreed with the findings of the PLR that was published on 5 February 2025. The first referral should have been passed to the local authority Channel coordinator for information gathering (the process in place at the time). He comments that '*it is hard to see how the test of 'reasonable grounds to believe that there are no Prevent concerns' could have been satisfied on the known facts of the case*'. Lord Anderson also agreed with the PLR finding that there were sufficient concerns to warrant progression to Channel.

Lord Anderson concludes that in both cases their schools referred the individuals to Prevent '*for the best of reasons – but Prevent failed to provide what might have helped them. Whether different decisions might have spared their victims will never be known: both attacks came years later, and many imponderables intervened. But wrong decisions were taken; more should have been done; and from these failures, lessons must continue to be learned*'.

Lord Anderson also outlined the importance of having a prevention programme like Prevent in place for tackling radicalisation. Whilst Prevent cannot stop every attack, we must continue to drive reform where it is found lacking.

Lord Anderson made a series of recommendations on how Prevent can be further strengthened or areas that require further exploration. These include:

- Prevent should remain open to individuals falling within the existing category of “fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks”. Alongside this, consistent efforts should be made to improve the quality of referrals and encourage those that are appropriate, including by providing clear and consistent messaging to potential referrers and to Prevent practitioners.
- A task force should be established to lead exploratory work into the possibility of formally connecting Prevent to a broader safeguarding and violence prevention system.
- Compliance with respective agency mandates to share information should be more closely monitored by their regulators and inspectorates. Consideration should be given to introducing a duty to cooperate with speed and candour in reviews after adverse incidents.
- Public transparency about the structures and systems of Prevent should be the default position. The Home Office and CT Policing should adopt a pro- active approach to the release of such information and be ready to publicise the successes of Prevent.
- All feasible and rights-compliant avenues should be explored as a matter of priority to enable evidence of online activity to be more effectively used:

o to gauge risk factors, assess risk, identify clusters and escalation and activate and manage responses;

o to assist in the identification of potential subjects for Prevent; and

o to evaluate and address the risk factors attaching to individuals referred to Prevent.

The Government welcomes the findings of this rigorous review and will immediately act on its findings. We will:

- Clarify Prevent thresholds in guidance and training to ensure that frontline public sector workers subject to the Prevent Duty understand that those ‘fascinated with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks’ should be referred to Prevent. We will complete this work by the end of September.
- Improve transparency and information sharing, including by upskilling and training Prevent practitioners, frontline workers, and civil society organisations. We will complete this work before the end of the year.
- We will take steps to strengthen our approach to tackling online radicalisation, through work with tech companies, like-minded international partners, and considering new approaches to identifying and supporting susceptible people

online. This includes developing new capabilities to better equip Prevent to manage online radicalisation risks.

- Continue exploratory work on how Prevent connects into wider safeguarding and violence prevention pathways to ensure no-one can fall between the cracks.

Whilst we must look immediately at how Prevent works alongside wider safeguarding mechanisms to stop further missed opportunities, we also look forward to the outcome of the first phase of the Southport Public Inquiry, led by Sir Adrian Fulford, which will publish its findings later this year. Where Lord Anderson's review has identified the need to explore broader and long-term reforms to safeguarding and violence prevention, we will consider this alongside the Inquiry's recommendations. The Inquiry will comprehensively examine all aspects of the events that led to the Southport attack, and identify where further changes should be made.

Alongside the work we will take forward in response to this report, swift progress has already been made on the reforms to strengthen Prevent I announced in December 2024:

- o Prevent has launched new guidance which is designed to ensure that repeat referrals to Prevent get the multi-agency consideration they require;
- o The end-to-end review of Prevent thresholds has concluded. Its recommendations will strengthen our approach to the assessment and management of Prevent referrals. It will ensure that clear and unambiguous policy, guidance, and training is in place, so that Prevent can offer the right interventions to the right people. It includes specific action to improve our approach on Islamist extremism and for those individuals who are being radicalised into extreme violence;
- o The first stage of the strategic policy review into how Prevent manages people with mental ill-health or who are neurodivergent has also concluded. Action is underway to implement those findings;
- o Pilots are now running across the country to ensure that where people do not meet Prevent thresholds, they receive the support they need from wider services; and
- o From 1 August, we will pilot new practical mentoring interventions for people at risk of radicalisation in Channel, to enable Channel panels to better support individuals without a clear ideology.
- o Prevent training is being rolled out at pace to educate frontline professionals about the ideologies, such as Islamist extremism, that drive terrorism.

In addition, to enable the vital independent oversight of Prevent to continue while a recruitment process is underway for the permanent Commissioner, I am delighted that Lord Anderson has agreed to extend his tenure as Interim Commissioner until the end of the year.

My department remains steadfast in its commitment to keeping the public safe and safeguarding people at risk of radicalisation.

The victims, their families and those who survived the Southport attack but continue to live with the physical and emotional pain, and Sir David Amess's family remain in our hearts and prayers.

TREASURY

■ Tax exemptions under the Grenfell Support (Restorative Justice) programme and the Expanded Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (James Murray): [\[HCWS827\]](#)

The Government will legislate to ensure that payments made under the Grenfell Support (Restorative Justice) programme are exempt from Income Tax. This legislation will apply retrospectively from 5 June 2024, when payments from the scheme started.

HMRC will exercise its collection and management discretion and will not collect Income Tax that may have been due on any payments made from 5 June 2024 to the date the legislation takes effect.

Exempting these payments from Income Tax means that tax credits claimants who received a payment up to 5 April 2025 should not have seen a reduction in their tax credits award. While no tax credits awards would have been reduced automatically, claimants who reported this payment to HMRC as part of their income for tax credits purposes can contact HMRC to determine whether their tax credits award was correct. HMRC is exploring options to proactively contact those tax credit customers who have received any payments under the Grenfell Support (Restorative Justice) programme.

The Government will also legislate to exempt compensation payments in the expanded Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme. This was expanded on 3 June 2025 to include postmasters with convictions overturned by a Court, postmasters who were prosecuted for alleged offences committed while the Horizon system was in use but did not face criminal convictions, and postmasters who received a caution, or in Scotland received an alternative to prosecution or a purported alternative to prosecution from the Post Office, for an alleged offence involving the Horizon system.

The Government is committed to maintaining the tax treatment of the Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme. Therefore, the Government will legislate to formalise the tax exemption and ensure that no Income Tax, National Insurance contributions, Capital Gains Tax or Inheritance Tax will be payable for redress received under this scheme.